

THE TIMES

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30p
EVERY
WEEKDAY

Lawrence case informants named in inquiry blunder

By STEPHEN TENDERL
AND STEPHEN FARRELL

SCOTLAND YARD was offering secret informants in the Stephen Lawrence investigation police protection last night after their identities were published in the Macpherson report and circulated to the men who were accused of the killing.

Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, who chaired the inquiry into the case, issued a public apology for the blunder as police began visiting 28 people who spoke up after the murder six years ago to see if they were scared.

The alarm was raised yesterday morning when Yard officers found that a second volume on key documents included a calendar of information drawn up by Kent police as they examined the London investigation after a complaint by the Lawrence family.

The calendar was intended to show how much information the murder team received over a 17-day period. It included the address from which the Yard kept surveillance on some of the suspects, the names of people who gave information about the five men eventually arrested, and the addresses of other informants.



One woman described the publication of her personal details as disgusting, and the relative of another informant said: "Of course we are concerned; we have the police here with us now."

Detective Chief Superintendent David Capper, head of Kent

CID and author of the calendar, said: "I am horrified. It was never meant for publication." Jack Straw was alerted to the breach and the second part of the report and its relevant appendix was withdrawn. But 1,500 copies had already been distributed, including five sets destined for the men accused of the killing, and it had been on the Internet since Wednesday.

It is thought that at least some of the five suspects had already received the appendices. But Michael Holmes, the solicitor for Gary Dobson, said that his client had not seen the calendar and had no wish to do so because he might be

blamed if anything happened to any of the informants.

As Conservatives accused the Home Office of incompetence, Mr Straw shrank off any suggestion that he or his officials were responsible for the blunder and wrote saying as much to the Speaker. He said that it would have been wrong for him to have checked the contents of an independent inquiry report.

A spokesman for Sir William's team said: "It's a mistake, it's our responsibility and we very much regret what has happened. Basically it was just an error."

Last night Mr Straw joined Do-

reen and Neville Lawrence in laying flowers beside the memorial plaque in Eltham, South London, where their son died. The plaque had been defaced with white paint overnight and police admitted yesterday that the video surveillance camera trained on the spot was a "dummy" with no film in it.

The plaque has been attacked twice before and the bus-stop where Stephen was attacked was also daubed with paint yesterday.

Help for suspects, page 6
Leading article and Letters, page 27
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Boy, 4, in snow tomb rescue

FROM ROGER BOYES IN LANDECK, AUSTRIA

THE rescue of a four-year-old boy, trapped under snow for almost two hours, yesterday encouraged first aid workers and Austrian soldiers to continue their increasingly desperate search for survivors of one of the most deadly avalanches experienced in the Tyrolean Alps.

The boy, still in intensive care but said to be smiling, was found clinically dead after 100 minutes under the deep layer of snow which swept into a small village of Valzur.

Doctors managed to reanimate him and ease his hypothermia. With the help of a helicopter pilot willing to brave a snowstorm he was flown to safety.

Dr Alois Schranz, chief surgeon at Zams Hospital who worked round the clock to bring the boy back to life, said he could be seen as the "miracle of Valzur".

Doctors calculate that few people can survive more than 15 minutes beneath the snow; the strong likelihood is that they will suffocate.

The boy - his name has not been released - was hit by the torrent of snow in the second avalanche in 24 hours in the disaster area. Valzur is on the outskirts of Galtür which was devastated by an avalanche on



Tourists arriving at Pontiats barracks in Landeck after being airlifted from the avalanche-stricken resort of Galtür

chiarists are dividing their time between mourning parents, disoriented children and the rescue workers themselves.

Rescue organisers said yesterday that 21 bodies had been identified: nine were Germans, five Dutch, five Austrians and two Danes. No British holidaymakers have been killed and none are reported missing.

The evacuation of Galtür was almost complete last night. Most of those now staying on have chosen to do so.

Rescuers searching in the village were stunned yesterday to find a dog which had apparently survived for two days under the snow, an official said. The black mongrel was found in the wreckage of a house.

Army rescue officials have called the animal, whose owners were among those who died in the resort village. Flecki, Colonel Raimund Lammer, a rescue officer, said another officer who already has a dog had agreed to adopt it.

Today, if the weather holds, the focus will shift to evacuating

the nights," said Birgit Pick, a German holidaymaker. "We didn't know if there would be another avalanche. We hardly slept for two nights."

"The organisation was a bit chaotic. Yesterday we stood for five hours in the snow with our children, waiting for a flight out, and then we were told we couldn't go. We went back to our hotel and were very frightened all night long. But this morning we got the first flight out, thank God."

"It was terrible, especially

'Junket Jack' owns up to his freebies

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JACK CUNNINGHAM, the Cabinet Office minister known at Westminster as "Junket Jack", had his reputation for high living confirmed yesterday when he declared a lengthy list of free hospitality in the past 12 months.

The latest Register of Members' Interests shows that Dr Cunningham, the Cabinet "Enforcer", accepted a series of tickets for himself and his wife Maureen for the ballet, the opera, Wimbledon and Newcastle United football matches.

Dr Cunningham, who originally earned his epithet for costly ministerial trips overseas, including a flight on Concorde, admits to tickets and hospitality at the Royal Albert Hall, courtesy of the English National Ballet last June 18.

A week later he went to Glyndebourne, courtesy British Nuclear Fuels, before attending the men's final at Wimbledon on July 5, courtesy Coca-Cola. In September he

was given two days free fishing by Scottish Coal and throughout the year he has enjoyed days of hospitality at St James' Park, home ground to Newcastle United at the expense of the football club.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, also appears susceptible to the odd freebie. Last month he decided to register that he had received two tickets to Wimbledon for July 3, from the England Lawn Tennis Club, and two tickets for the England v Moldova match at Wembley, courtesy the Football Association.

He declared a visit to Glyndebourne paid for by Marks & Spencer. His latest entry, on January 22, discloses that he and his family obtained a "space available" upgrade to club class for their outward and return trips to Delhi over Christmas, courtesy British Airways. He saved £3,230.

MPs profit, page 13

Tories gain ground, but Hague struggles

By PETER RIDDELL

SUPPORT for the Conservative Party has risen to 30 per cent for the first time since the 1997 election, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, is mixed news for the Tories. The party's rating jumped six points from the very low level of late January after the row over genetically modified foods. But William Hague's personal rating continued to decline - to a record low among Tory supporters. By a two to one margin, Tories are disillusioned rather than satisfied with his performance.

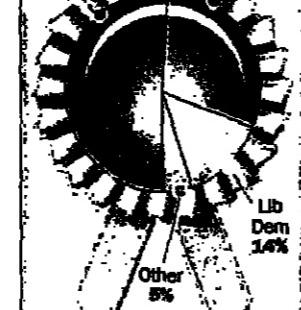
Support for Labour has fallen by five points to 51 per cent, the lowest since the election, with the Liberal Democrats unchanged on 14 per cent. It is, however, premature to talk about mid-term blues since support for Labour is higher, and for the Tories lower, than at the election.

Q How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?

Labour 51% Conservative 30%

Lib Dem 14% Other 5%

Source: MORI



is evenly split with 46 per cent supporting British participation and 45 per cent against. This represents a marked shift since the 54 to 37 per cent balance against in August 1996.

The total includes 17 per cent strong supporters and 24 per cent strong opponents. Twenty-nine per cent of those questioned were generally in favour but could be persuaded against, while 21 per cent are really opposed to being persuaded.

Two-thirds think it likely that they will regularly use the euro by 2010.

MORI interviewed 1,769 adults at 155 sampling points between February 19 and 22. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent), are undecided (6 per cent) or who refuse to name a party (1 per cent).

The poll also shows that there is all to play for over the euro, with half of the public saying they could be swayed either way, depending on what they think will be best for the British economy. At the moment, support for the currency

Labour slides, page 12
Mary-Ann Steigert, page 26
Letters, page 27

Cook names MI6 chief as new 'C'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE present director of operations at MI6 is to be the new "C", the Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced yesterday.

Richard Dearlove, 54, who is also Assistant Chief of SIS, the second most senior post at MI6, will succeed Sir David Spender who is retiring in September. He will serve as "C" initially for three years but is likely to stay on for five.

The naming of the new "C" follows a selection begun by the last Conservative Government under which the heads

of three security and intelligence services, MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, the secret communications centre at Cheltenham, are identified. Other senior members are supposed to remain anonymous.

Richard Billing Dearlove, who joined MI6 in 1966, served as an undercover intelligence officer in Nairobi, Prague and Paris. After a period in London he was posted to Geneva and then Washington, before returning to London in 1993 as one of MI6's directors.

Like other intelligence officers, he never attained a senior official diplomatic rank, spending much of his career as a First Secretary, a normal "cover" ranking given to MI6 officers in British Embassies.

Mr Dearlove, who obtained a history honours degree from Queen's College, Cambridge, is married with two sons and a daughter, all in their 20s.

Sir David never made a public appearance and his picture has never been published.

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The National Deaf Children's Society



Bores will be bores as grey men strive for tedium

Three men awoke early. For each, yesterday was a big day. Stephen Byers, Trade and Industry Secretary, knew he must perform at Questions.

Alun Michael knew that opening the Debate on Wales, later, the speech would strike the keynote for his newly confirmed leadership of the Welsh Labour Party.

And for Richard Livsey, Liberal Democrat spokesman on Wales, his own speech mattered hugely. This was the last St David's Day debate before the Welsh Assembly elections. His party have high hopes.

Three men with different

purposes. But one goal they shared. To win the title Most Boring MP in Britain. Each was in hot contention: they are this sketch's finalists.

Thursday offered each a chance to shine — at being outstandingly dull.

"

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the dullest of us all?" muttered Mr Byers as he shaved, taking care not to cut himself lest colour pierce the grey. He sliced his hair into shape, not a grey strand out of place.

Shirt? Plain white. Mr Byers surveyed a range of two-piece suits, well cut but not ostentatiously so. Briefly he con-

sidered a charcoal flannel. No, too dark a grey. A dove-grey pinstripe? Too light a grey. He chose a mid-grey suit. Third Way grey.

Tie? Grey of course, but silk or wool? He chose grey silk, setting off suit, hair and disposition beautifully. A grey Government limo had arrived with his red (ugly) box. He set out for Westminster.

Alun Michael was there already. Forced, against every

instinct, to wear a daffodil (in order not to stand out) he had chosen grey suit, mid-blue tie. Richard Livsey paced his office floor rehearsing his speech. He must iron out any wrinkle of interest — adopt a monotone unrelied by the least vocal modulation. It was going well. Four pigeons were comatose on the windowsill.

First over the wire was Stephen Byers. Magnificent. He said absolutely nothing,

speaking often. But the judges must mark Byers down: he was almost crisp. Vacuity should be limp. "No comment" raises an eyebrow where a page of pap lowers eyelids — surely the aim.

After noon came Alun Michael. Splendid. He spoke without meaning for nearly an hour, ostensibly on Wales. In the Strangers' Gallery they were keeping over.

Michael was helped by an almost empty Chamber (a couple of Tories, eight on his own side, and one Liberal Democrat) but I was ready to cast my vote for him when the Liberal Democrat rose. Richard

Livsey gave us a tour de force: this man was not just boring; he was spectacularly boring.

People turned to each other in wonder that anyone could be so boring. "St David's day is as we know a special day in the calendar," he droned, never, in all that dreadful dirge, raising eyes from text or voice by so much as a semi-tone. "We need vision and leadership and we need it desperately." Livsey perorated, a living demonstration of his own contention.

Judges were poised between Michael and Livsey. Then Michael clinched it —

for Livsey. For Rhodri Morgan spoke, the man Mr Michael has just beaten in an unfair contest for the leadership in Wales.

Alun Michael didn't even listen. He chatted to a pal; then walked out — while Morgan was speaking. That isn't boring; it's stunning. Convicted of astonishing discourtesy, Michael loses to Livsey, who is a gent, and a nice one.

One anxiety troubles the judges. The sort of behaviour is becoming the norm among new Labour. Courtesy will soon be considered an attention-grabbing eccentricity. Boors will be boring.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prescription charges to rise by 10p

Prescription charges are to rise by 10p to £5.90 from April 1. The increase is meant to help raise £37 million for the NHS in the next financial year — enough money to run the service for two days. Announcing the increase yesterday, John Denham, the Health Minister, promised that for the next three years prescription charges would rise by no more than the rate of inflation. Yesterday's rise was the lowest for 20 years, he said, and was below the inflation rate for January.

A free Prescriptions Advice Line is being set up so that patients can find out if they are eligible for a prescription without payment. The Government has also agreed that from April everyone over 60 will be eligible for free eye tests.

Swiss chocs win

Cadbury lost the battle of the chocolate bars in the Court of Appeal when it was banned from selling its Swiss Chalet chocolate, and landed with a £1 million-plus legal bill. Scharf and Lindt protested that the confectionery was wrongly being passed off as real Swiss chocolate.

Art tax stalled

Lobbying by the Government and auction houses delayed an EU move to impose a royalty levy on modern art sales every time a work is sold for up to 70 years after an artist's death. The German presidency of the EU agreed to postpone an attempt to force through the law on a majority vote.

Leah charge

A woman was charged by police yesterday following the death of a 13-year-old girl from a suspected drugs overdose. Leah Lawson was discovered by her mother on the sofa of their home in Grimsby on Saturday. A 24-year-old woman has been charged with supplying drugs.

Chef cleared

A chef was cleared of blame for an outbreak of salmonella poisoning that affected 100 people who had eaten his chocolate mousse. Salford Magistrates' Court ruled that Marc Cooper, of Whitefield, Manchester, had taken exemplary care in preparing the dessert with a raw egg.

Daughter free

Benita Pearce, 33, who vanished around her mother as she lay dying on the floor, was given 12 months in jail, suspended for two years, after Truro Crown Court was told she was mentally ill. She admitted manslaughter.

Laundrer jailed

A London businessman who became a multimillionaire by laundering criminal cash through his Bureau de Change was jailed for 14 years and fined £1 million. Ussama El-Kurd is believed to have laundered £70 million.

Law lords' log-jam delays key rulings

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL PINOCHET will not hear his fate for at least another three weeks because the highest court in the land is facing an overload of work which is causing delays in cases right down through the courts.

The law lords are struggling to complete their draft opinions on whether the former dictator is immune from prosecution because two of them are also chairing public inquiries: Lord Saville is chairing the Bloody Sunday inquiry and Lord Phillips is chairing the BESE inquiry.

In the wake of the fiasco which prompted a second Pinochet hearing in January, they are also determined to ensure their opinions are legally watertight and there are "no loose ends" as one put it, even though they are likely to be divided.

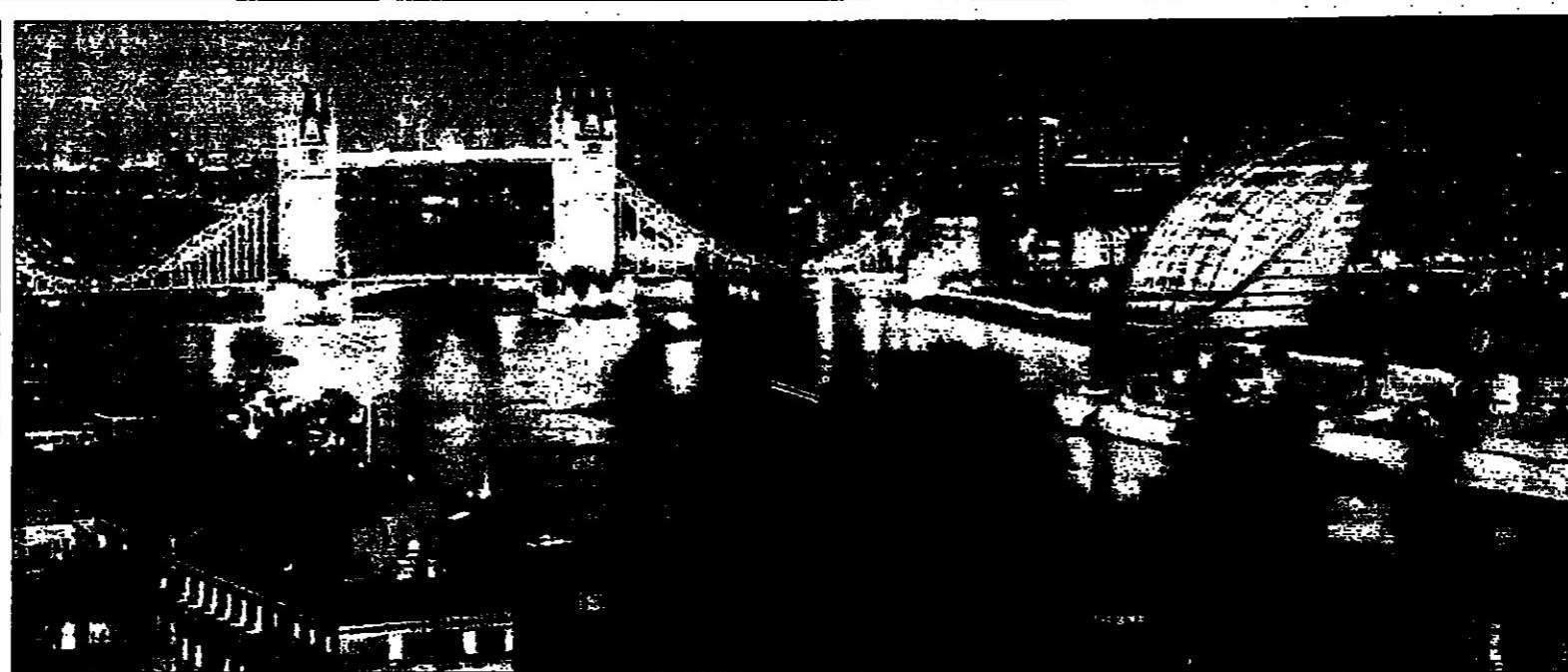
The backlog has been made worse first by the emergency Pinochet hearing before Christmas and then the rehearing as a result of Lord Hoffmann's failure to disclose links with Amnesty International.

The situation has been made more difficult because the law lords are not up to their full strength of 12: Lord Nicholls is in Hong Kong, sitting there on the final court of appeal. Retired law lords such as Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Mustill and Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle have been brought in to sit on cases.

The shortage is holding up several cases in the Court of Appeal and litigants are becoming angry about the delays.

In one important case, affecting the right of people to sue over child abuse, judgment has still not been delivered some six months after the hearing ended.

At least a dozen other actions are awaiting the outcome of this judgment, involving the London Borough of Enfield.



The futuristic design for the mayoral palace in London will be a vote of confidence in London as an international city, the Government believes

Glass dish reflects choice for London

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TEN-storey glass dish designed by Sir Norman Foster will be chosen today as the home for the new Mayor of London.

Nick Raynsford, the minister for London, will tell MPs that the futuristic structure on the South Bank of the Thames has beaten its neo-classical rival in Bloomsbury.

In deciding to go for a brand new building to house the new office rather than supporting a facelift for an old one, ministers believe they are giving a vote of confidence not only to the status of the mayor, but also to London as an international city.

The man, who comes from East London, became a guardian looking after his niece. Now in her twenties, she was raped in 1979. It took several years for complaints about the rapist to be taken seriously but finally in 1994 he was charged and convicted of rape and jailed for ten years at the Old Bailey.

Now he wants to sue the local authority for damages and after a couple of setbacks in the lower courts, his case has reached the Court of Appeal.

James Vallance-White, principal clerk in the House of Lords Judicial Office, agreed that they were under-staffed at present. "We are one down each day, with only nine law lords available, which means we do not have enough to staff both the Privy Council and the appeal committee for current cases."

He said there were some ten cases outstanding waiting judgment apart from cases currently being heard. "They are very aware of the problem and doing their best."

The trust has a 40 per cent

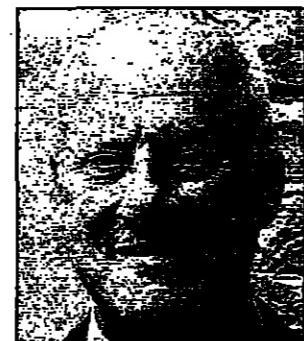
ernisation for our great capital as we approach the millennium," said a Whitehall source.

However, the choice has its opponents within government. Tony Blair himself is said to have reservations about the potential dangers of creating an alternative power base across the water from Westminster and the echoes it will carry of the Greater London Council. Senior Labour figures fear that giving the mayor a seat across the Thames will inevitably see the new post challenge the supremacy of Parliament when it comes to London affairs.

Labour opponents of Ken Livingstone's bid to become the party's candidate for the job served notice last night that they will use the symbolism of the new building to fuel their case. Sir Norman's building, though, will be out of sight of Westminster, two miles downstream overlooking Tower Bridge.

Described variously as a glass egg, a soapdish or a fencing mask, the building will occupy 13 acres. It will be hung from two masts and will be clad in glass with the proposed assembly chamber for the Greater London Authority. Also on the site will be a huge complex of offices, shops and a 180-bedroom hotel.

The alternative would have been Victoria House, an office block near the British Museum, remodelled by Will Alsop so that the roof was raised and three floors were made over to accommodate the chamber.



Foster: designed winning building

Surgery cut to relieve strain on tired staff

By IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE teaching hospitals are cutting the time spent on operations by a fifth because the effort to reduce waiting lists has left staff too exhausted to maintain their current workload.

The Royal Hospitals Trust, which runs St Bartholomew's Hospital, the Royal London and London Chest Hospital, has agreed to cancel 16 of its 96 theatre sessions a week because staff said they could no longer safely keep up the required pace.

The trust has a 40 per cent

shortage of theatre nurses and auxiliaries. Theatre staff have been putting in many hours of overtime to try to meet government targets.

Despite the staff shortages the trust was only 2.7 per cent below its target figure for operations at the end of last month.

Helen Davis, theatre manager, said: "Staff have been working under great pressure to try to cover for the shortages and we feel it isn't fair on them or the patients they care for to try to maintain the current level of services given the circumstances."

The staff feel they need a chance to regroup and take some time to work out longer-term solutions to shortages. A hospital spokeswoman added: "We had to give the staff a break."

If they went on at that rate quality would go down, patients would suffer. They have done their best, but recruitment is almost impossible."

Government figures released yesterday showed that the waiting list is growing rapidly.

The number waiting more than three months to see a specialist has grown 40 per cent

in the nine months since the Government launched its £30 million initiative to cut the length of waiting lists.

Montgomery's Drumcree bid

By MARTIN FLETCHER CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DAVID MONTGOMERY, who resigned as the Mirror Group's chief executive in January, is stepping in to try to resolve the seven-month deadlock over the Orange Order's banned Drumcree parade.

Mr Montgomery met Brendan McKenna, leader of the nationalist residents of Portadown's Carvagh Road, last Friday. He has also had informal discussions with Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's chief of staff, who has chaired two rounds of fruitless "proximity"

talks between the Orangemen and the residents.

Mr Montgomery, who was born in Northern Ireland, is a close friend of David Trimble, the Province's First Minister and Portadown's MP. It was unclear last night whether he was intervening at Mr Trimble's behest. The First Minister's spokesman had no comment and Mr Montgomery was unavailable.

Downing Street said Mr Montgomery would have no formal role but may be able to help.

There is growing concern in the Province that a new marching season is approaching with no resolution in sight.

Channel 4 fined for fake show

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE Independent Television Commission will announce today that it has fined Channel 4 for the first time. The penalty has been imposed because it broadcast a documentary about rent boys in which key scenes were faked.

The £150,000 fine is only a fraction of the £2 million fine imposed by the ITC on Carlton Communication over *The Connection*, a documentary about the Colombian drugs cartels that contained faked scenes. Granada was fined £500,000 for product placements on *This Morning*, the show presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Channel 4 has already ad-

mitted that a "deliberate and organised deception" took place over *Chickens*, a documentary that purported to show rent boys playing their trade in Glasgow. The interviews with rent boys were genuine but three short scenes apparently of rent boys setting up meetings with clients were played by staff of the programme maker, Basement Productions.

Channel 4 did not know that the scenes were not real and would have been happy to label them as "reconstructions". Although the fine is smaller than expected, Channel 4 is annoyed to be fined at all because it believes it had

no way of knowing that the scenes had been faked.

The ITC decision comes amid growing concern over the truth of what is shown on television. The BBC Governors yesterday issued a statement expressing serious concern about standards after complaints that fake guests were interviewed on *The Victoria Show*.

A preliminary investigation found that four guests had been booked through agents, and two were fakes. But no evidence was found to support claims that staff had knowingly booked fake guests.

The governors said: "The board will not tolerate fakes masquerading as facts."

Today Sir Robin Biggane,

chairman of the ITC, is expected to issue a warning of severe punishment for broadcasters if there are further breaches of trust with the viewer.

Several of the biggest rail companies are pressing for extensions to their contracts, most of which are due to end in 2003. The large rail companies are also in

discussion with some of smallest operators who face financial difficulty as subsidies are reduced over the next four years.

Mr Blair told the first national rail summit attended by senior figures from the industry: "I want to make it perfectly clear to you that you are on trial. We are failing your customers and those who continue to fail them have no place in the rail industry of the future."

"Don't think either that the length of the franchises held by train operating companies means that everything between us is set in stone. Don't think that because the franchises are contractually in place there is nothing we can do to drive forward improvements — that we will have to wait until the franchises come to an end."

Internal industry punctuality figures, seen by *The Times*, show that most networks had a growing number of late trains in the past two months.

Island Line, the only network to have earned an "A" rating, has now been demoted to a "B", leaving no "A" grade operators in the entire network.

ScotRail, the most punctual network in the country, has slipped from its high standards in five of its seven routes. Cardiff Railways and Connex South Central have continued to run more late trains.

The sharpest deterioration has come from Virgin Cross Country, where the annual level of late trains has increased from 17.9 to 19.5 per cent since December.

Some franchises have improved: Connex South Eastern and Midland Main Line have increased punctuality. The latest government figures, released two weeks ago, date to December 12, 1998. The new figures gathered by *The Times* deal with the 12 months to February 6.

THE SECURITY CHANNEL

Thanks to a partnership between ScotRail and Railtrack, for the first time 17 stations in the East of Scotland will benefit from 24-hour live CCTV. www.railtrack.co.uk

RAILTRACK

The heart of the railway



'Lecturer' in £200,000 masquerade



Yuksel: cover was blown by new colleagues

A SCHIZOPHRENIC woman who earned almost £200,000 after fooling a university into giving her a senior post was yesterday sent to a secure psychiatric unit after two years on the run.

Soraya Yuksel was convicted in 1996 of deceiving Reading University and false accounting but absconded before being sentenced. She was re-arrested at Warwick University, where she had just been appointed a part-time teacher under the name Angela Cooper.

Yesterday she was ordered to be detained under the Mental Health Act by a judge at Reading Crown Court. The universities said that

Yuksel, who has a long history of mental illness, was a good teacher. Reading said after the case that it had tightened up its recruitment procedures.

The court was told that Yuksel, 50, employed two fictitious lecturers — one her daughter and the other a former colleague who worked abroad — and banked their earnings.

She had become a part-time languages teacher at Reading University in 1989 after producing photocopies of documents to support her claim that she had Arabic and Islamic his-

tory degrees from Edinburgh University. Barnaby Evans, for the prosecution, said that her story was embellished by a glowing reference, apparently supplied by a colleague from Ankara University, but in reality written by herself.

She was given a full-time position as language access development officer in 1993. To obtain the post, she claimed to have a PhD from Durham University and presented more fake documents. "She said that in future she should be known by the title of doctor," Mr Evans said. He

told the court that Yuksel, from Birmingham, had defrauded the university of £191,593 before an anonymous tip-off led to her arrest in 1996.

David Frampton, Registrar at Reading University, said: "We took her qualifications at face value on the basis of what we believed were proper letters of confirmation. They turned out to be forged. We have strengthened our arrangements for checking credentials."

Mr Frampton said there was no indication that Yuksel was mentally ill. "Within the university her behav-

iour was perfectly normal. I still have no reason to question her performance as a teacher," he said.

Yuksel was re-arrested at Warwick University two years later after she had been appointed a part-time teacher of English under the name of Angela Cooper. Her new colleagues recognised her face in a "wanted for questioning" advertisement in a teaching journal.

To obtain the Warwick post she cited a Masters in English Teaching from Aston University. The university confirmed that an Angela Cooper

was awarded an MA in 1993. A spokesman for Warwick University said: "She was a good teacher. When the police arrested her, she insisted on picking up some coursework."

Alex Lewis, representing Yuksel, told Judge Josh Lait: "She has a severe mental illness, schizophrenia. She has been admitted for treatment in 1967, 1971, 1983 and 1996. She is a risk to herself and others and requires psychiatric treatment and care in a secure unit under the appropriate Mental Health Act."

Judge Lait ordered that Yuksel, a mother of two, be sent to the secure unit at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, near Hastings.

House Party is over for Edmonds as viewers quit

BY CAROL MIDDLETON, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Saturday night television show that irritates celebrities and critics alike — *Noel's House Party* — was scrapped by the BBC last night.

The programme, hosted by Noel Edmonds, one of the BBC's most highly paid presenters, dropped to an all-time low of 5.9 million viewers at the weekend. Peter Salmon, BBC1 controller, said it was time to "move on" after pushing the show "as far as it can go". Edmonds is pressing ahead with plans for a new Saturday evening prime-time show that is expected to be aired early next year.

Noel's House Party has been killed off after a series of poor reviews and spots involving other celebrities. Trevor McDonald, the *News at Ten* presenter, was outraged when Edmonds tried to make him the subject of a "gotcha" wind-up — a regular feature in his show — by tricking him into



Edmonds has started planning for new show

reading out a series of messages in regional slang during recording. Mr McDonald left the set, saying: "I don't do this. I'm not a comedian."

Edmonds has also been involved in a long-running feud with Chris Evans, the Virgin Radio owner. It emerged that Edmonds had been secretly filming Evans for months as one of his spoofs. When Edmonds briefly went on strike at the BBC last year in a dispute over money, Evans offered to take over *Noel's House Party*. He then announced on his radio show that the programme would be "axed by Christmas".

A BBC spokeswoman denied yesterday that the decision was based on poor audiences. "This isn't about ratings. It's about moving forward with fresh ideas and a fresh format," she said. "It's a totally, genuinely joint mutual decision by the BBC and Noel that they want to try something different." She added that the present run of the entertainment series had always been due to end on March 20, the date on which the final programme will be aired.

Edmonds said: "When we sat down to think about the series that had been commissioned for autumn, it became clear that we had lots of great ideas but they didn't fit into the *House Party* format."

"That seemed like the perfect point for us to say goodbye to *House Party* and start planning a new show to be unveiled next year."



Madonna after the awards ceremony: her song began life as British flower-power

Pair's fire-raising was farcical

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A LONDONER who had been hired to burn down a failing lace factory in a Scottish village was caught because locals were surprised to see a black man in their community, a court was told yesterday. Residents of Newmains, Ayrshire, reported a suspicious-looking stranger to police before any crime had taken place. The choice of fire-raiser was one of the blunders that led to the rapid arrest of Terry

Dixon and the man who hired him, Mauro Weingarten.

Depute Fiscal Murdoch MacTaggart, for the prosecution, told Kilmarnock Sheriff Court yesterday that Dixon, 32, had been hired by Weingarten, 45, managing director of MW Wilson (Lace Ltd), for £1,000 to burn down his factory, which was on a two-day week. Local people were suspicious when they saw him driving around, last February, Mr MacTaggart said.

The court was told that

Weingarten's attempt to get rid of the factory was farcical.

The factory boss, from Glasgow, not only paid for Dixon's flight and hire-car by credit card, making the transaction easy for police to trace, but also handed over a wad of cash and was spotted preparing the premises for the blaze.

Dixon did no better. He started the blaze under a sprinkler system. "The police arrived when he was still in the premises and spoke to his girlfriend outside. They heard

banging and crashing inside the factory. This turned out to be damage being done by a fork-lift truck."

Dixon was arrested as he left the building with fuel containers. Damage was estimated at £30,000 to the building, stock and machinery. Yesterday, both men admitted fire-raising and causing criminal damage. Their pleas of not guilty to conspiracy to defraud an insurance company were accepted. They were freed on bail pending sentencing.

INVESTIGATORS pursuing the source of pirate computer games pouring onto the market were stunned to find an 11-year-old schoolboy was one of the brains behind the operation.

The child was working from his own bedroom, using equipment bought by his wealthy parents to help him get to grips with the new world of information technology. When industry watchdogs mounted a raid, they found 200 computer disks containing illegally copied material with an estimated retail value of £10,000.

The boy is believed to be the youngest

counterfeiter in a black market said to be worth £3 billion a year. Using state-of-the-art computer hardware, he was making counterfeit copies of popular video games and selling them to friends at the private boarding school where he is a day-boy at up to a fifth of the shop price.

The inspectors were unable to say how many fake discs he had created, but they knew he had been operating for more than two months. His unsuspecting parents were horrified to discover what their son had been up to at their home in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, and gave their assurance that it would not happen again. After an investigation by officials from

the European Leisure Software Publishers Association, the boy's equipment worth several thousand pounds, was forfeited to the authorities. Because of his age, the association decided against a prosecution and declined to identify him.

However, yesterday it issued a stern warning to others about the seriousness of such offences. Terry Anslow, the chief investigator with the association's crime unit, said: "We operate a 'no-tolerance' policy towards pirates and we will always push for the maximum sentence for each offence. Piracy is a direct threat to the jobs and livelihoods of those involved in a legitimate business."

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Evacuated holidaymakers arriving in Landeck yesterday after being flown to safety by helicopter from the stricken Tyrolean village of Galtür



One of the children rescued from the resort of Galtür where at least 27 people died

White death robs Tyrol village of its children

FROM BOGER BOYES IN LANDECK, WESTERN AUSTRIA

GALTÜR was a village without children yesterday. Only a handful of adult holidaymakers remained, awaiting evacuation, along with hardy locals reluctant to leave their bruised homes. Orange-suited rescue workers, staggering with fatigue, pushed long poles deep into the snow, probing for human contact. corpses we scratched out of the snowdrift were easier to bear than those under the rubble of masonry, all mangled and broken," said Rudolf Püllacher, a rescue worker.

Doctors, at first polite then betraying their frayed nerves, explain in stomach-curdling detail what happens when an avalanche travelling at almost

Barely a few weeks ago — half-term for English and German schoolchildren — the side streets were littered with play-gloos, and snowball fights were part of the daily routine. Now Galtür resembles Hamelin after the Pied Piper, cheated of his rat-killing commission, disappeared into the mountains with the children of the town.

avalanche travelling at almost 200mph hits a human. "You can compare it with a detonated bomb," said Dr Peter Kernetzhofer. "The air pressure wrecks inner organs. Lungs, stomach, liver and kidneys are shredded. Fine, concentrated snow and dust particles, which can be as sharp as glass, penetrate every opening in the human body causing massive damage." A child,

It was an avalanche racing down an angry mountain that swallowed Galtür's children and those of its guests. Three small wooden coffins laid to one side in the barracks at Landeck — the base of the rescue operations — reminding anyone who cared to look (and not many did) that children were among the chief victims of what has been called the White Death.

The figures released by the rescue team are fuzzy: 31 bodies have been found, 27 in Galtür, four on the outskirts in a hamlet called Valzur. Perhaps a dozen were children. At least four child deaths have been confirmed and children are among the seven people still reported missing.

ing tiles and masonry and have suffered broken bones. Those buried underneath the snow for a long period stood little chance. One evacuated mother, completely distraught, had lost two sons.

Galtür, most people seem to agree, is finished as a tourist location. Albert Einstein holidayed there and Ernest Hem-

Alexandra Frick and her boyfriend looked dazed as they stepped out of an army helicopter yesterday: they had started a ski holiday and ended up by digging out a child from under a concrete stairwell. The stairs saved the child, protecting it from the torrent of snow. For most of the dead children, the concrete was a killer, crushing them with the immense force of the snow behind it.

Ernest Hemingway was so charmed by the little town that in 1927 he wrote a story called *The Mountain Idyll*. Now Galtür has lost its children and its future.

Roads were being cleared yesterday as rescue teams tried to exploit the sunny weather. The forecast is that the weather could close in again and so there was a scramble to complete the evacuation of Galtür and move to

of the snow behind it.
"In some way the little
 **LINKS**
<http://www.tiroly.at/bb-landeck>
— The Landeck Website, giving the
names of those evacuated.

uation of Galtur and move to neighbouring Ischgl, where there is also an avalanche threat. Throughout the Alps — but particularly in Switzerland, Germany and Austria — 150,000 people are trapped in snowbound villages.



A map of Central Europe highlighting areas affected by avalanches. The map includes parts of France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy. Key locations marked include:

- FRANCE**: Moutiers (Three people rescued).
- GERMANY**: Lech (Britons stranded).
- SWITZERLAND**: Leukerbad (people evacuated), Grindelwald (resort closed), Zermatt (resort closed), Evolene (one person missing).
- AUSTRIA**: St Anton (resort closed), Landeck.
- ITALY**: Valzur (one person missing), Galtür (resort closed), Ischgl (resort closed).

An inset map in the bottom right corner shows a detailed view of the Alpine region, specifically the area around the Alps and Lake Geneva.

'Remarkable' survival of boy aided by cold

By ABRAHAM LEVIN

[View all posts by **John**](#) [View all posts in **Uncategorized**](#)

"Young people slow down much more rapidly because their body surface to weight is

"It means they can go for long periods without breathing without adverse effect," said Mr Armstrong.

"This is a classical case . . .
the whole body just shows

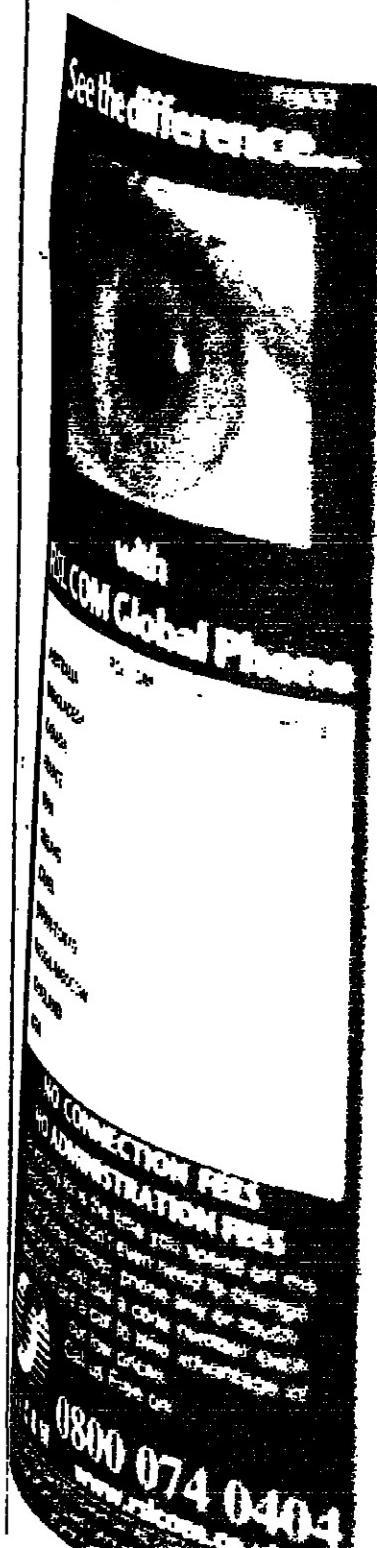
"...the whole body just slows right down. The heart will either beat extremely slowly—perhaps three times a minute—or stop completely."

THE survival of a four-year-old boy buried beneath an avalanche for 100 minutes was "utterly remarkable", an expert in the treatment of hypothermia said yesterday.

"Young people slow down much more rapidly because their body surface to weight is greater," said Mr Armstrong. "It means they can go for long periods without breathing without adverse effect."

"This is a classical case . . .
the whole body just shows

"...the whole body just slows right down. The heart will either beat extremely slowly—perhaps three times a minute—or stop completely."



THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26 1999

Mobile phone saves trio in Alpine ordeal

THREE French hikers stranded for ten days in sub-zero temperatures in the French Alps were discovered alive and well yesterday thanks to a mobile phone.

Their fate has gripped the country since the weekend — fears for their survival growing as successive rescue attempts were abandoned because of bad weather.

The three huddled together in a makeshift igloo they built after becoming lost in a blizzard. Rescuers who plucked Christophe Paliobie and brothers Olivier and Philippe Bourguet to safety in a helicopter said the three were in good condition after their ordeal in which they had endured arctic conditions at 10,000ft.

Emergency services found the hikers after they used a mobile phone to call local gendarmes yesterday. Working closely with France Télécom, rescuers were able to pinpoint the men's location, but efforts to reach them were hampered by high winds and fog.

The hikers, who ran out of food five days before their rescue, were flown to hospital in Moutiers where doctors pronounced them "weak, but safe and sound". They are being treated for hypothermia and dehydration.

Fear of running down the battery in their phone prevented the hikers from calling more than four times. They

Helicopter finds stranded hikers after final call for help, writes Susan Bell

first contacted rescue services on Saturday, made two further calls on Sunday and waited until Tuesday before making their final plea for help.

"Each time they were outside to telephone, the temperature inside their shelter dropped dramatically, explaining why they preferred to stay put," said Captain Gérard Valich of the rescue services, who paid tribute to the three men's "excellent" organisation and survival techniques.

Their igloo was so well constructed that they were insulated against the wind, he said. Temperatures inside the shelter would have been between zero and two degrees, compared with -15C to -20C outside, a doctor said yesterday.

A helicopter equipped with a heat-seeking device spotted the hikers early yesterday morning. The men had come out of their igloo as the weather had cleared and they had decided that one of them should attempt to ski down the mountain to find help, a dangerous

option because of the high risk of avalanches.

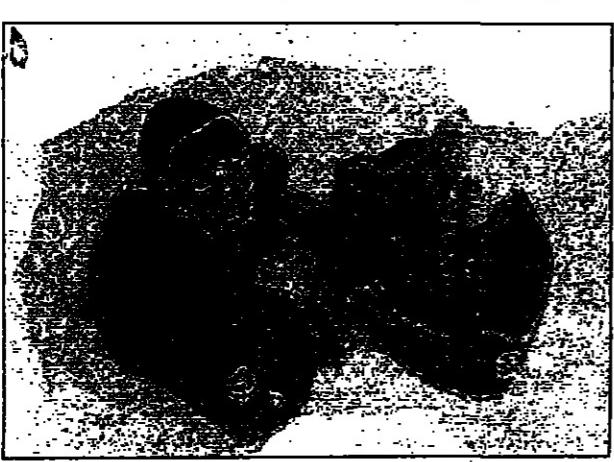
The rescue was welcomed with immense relief by the emergency services. "You can imagine the joy at having saved them, the smiles of their families, our satisfaction," said Captain Valich.

Thousands of holidaymakers were stranded in snow-bound Alpine resorts yesterday as avalanches continued to take their toll. In France a hiker was killed by a wall of snow near Saint-Véran and another injured. A snowboarder was hurt in an avalanche in the Nareyroux Valley above the Puy-Saint-Vincent.

In Switzerland, an avalanche which may have been caused intentionally destroyed several houses and forced the evacuation of about 30 people in the village of Leukerbad. There were no initial reports of casualties. Police launched an inquiry into its cause.



One of the three hikers is helped to his feet by rescuers after surviving for ten days in sub-zero temperatures



Rescuers congratulate each other lying in the makeshift igloo which saved three hikers' lives

Dogs scent out survivors

SNIFFER dogs have proved invaluable in the desperate hunt for survivors in Galtir. Dogs trained to detect human scent are responsible for hundreds of rescues each year (Christine Middap writes). The dogs are attached to police forces, search and rescue organisations and defence forces worldwide and are called out in most big searches for humans. Dogs have

about 222 million scent receptors in their noses, compared with about five million in humans. A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "The dogs never cease to amaze us in what they can do. Given the right circumstance, a track can be followed up to 24 hours after it was laid by a human." The main breeds used include German shepherds, labradors and springer spaniels.

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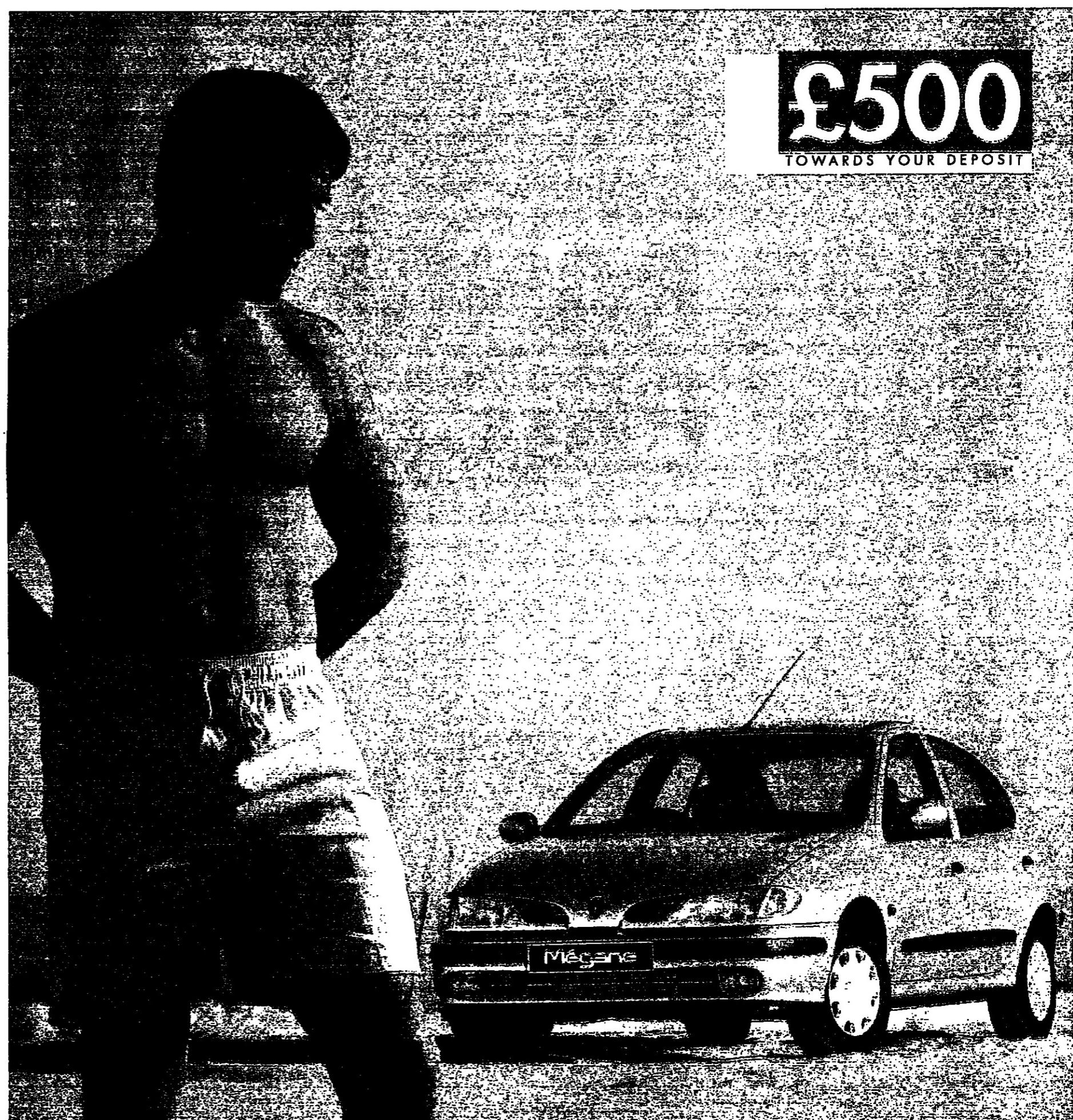
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The Megane

RENAULT

Britons count the cost of disaster

By ADRIAN LEE AND CLAUDIA JOSEPH

HUNDREDS of Britons who have spent up to six days stranded by avalanches and heavy snowfalls were yesterday joining the exodus from Tyrolean ski resorts.

Carol Eveleigh, 42, a preparatory school head teacher from Clapham, southwest London, said: "Because the weather has been so bad we have been stuck in our hotel for the past five days."

She estimated that the additional days in their Lech hotel, food and other expenses would total more than £2,000 for her family of four. "There is nothing we can do," she said.

Kenneth McKenzie, a London solicitor, paid £360 for his family and a friend to leave Lech by helicopter yesterday. They were forced to leave their luggage behind.

The Association of British Insurers said that most holiday policies would not cover extra time spent in resorts because of poor weather or avalanches.

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Suspects get civil rights help

The search is on for a barrister who will work unpaid to sue the Daily Mail, reports Frances Gibb

THE human rights group Liberty is trying to find a lawyer who will help the youths suspected of murdering Stephen Lawrence to sue the Daily Mail.

The group has approached four of the big City law firms, including Clifford Chance, to see if any of them would take the case without charge as part their *pro bono* work.

The newspaper published photographs of the five youths in May 1997 under the headline "Murderers". It declared: "The Mail accuses these men of killing. If we are wrong, let them sue us."

So far none of the firms has agreed to take on the action, which could lead to a trial lasting up to a year. However, a partner with Clifford Chance made informal inquiries around the Temple to see if any barrister would be willing to take on the brief.

Liberty took up the case after hearing the mothers of the suspects say that their sons were innocent but could not clear their names because they could not afford to litigate.

John Wadham, the director of Liberty, said: "We wanted to find a lawyer to act so that there was no impediment to the truth being aired in court."

"We took the view that because we have a *pro bono* panel, we should look for lawyers who might take this up." He said that it was an issue of principle involving access to justice. Legal aid was not available for defamation actions so the only way the youths and their families could seek to clear their names was if lawyers did the work free.

Liberty, which takes up cases itself, could not do so on this occasion because last year it gave its human rights award to Doreen and Neville Lawrence "for their courage and determination in fighting for the truth", Mr Wadham said.

John Potts, a partner with Clifford Chance, said he had been approached by Liberty and he had raised the ethical issues of the case with barristers. "Whatever you may think about them, they have every right to have a go, and I do think somebody should take the case for them," he said. But his firm had built up its *pro bono* practice by doing work for defendants rather than taking actions for plaintiffs.

One barrister who was approached said: "I don't think anyone would want to do a year-long trial on a *pro bono* basis. Apart from anything else, I wouldn't want a brick through my window."

Even if a law firm and barrister were found, there is the question of whether the youths would be ready to face tough questioning as witnesses. But the burden of proof would be on the Mail to justify that what it said was true.

Leading article and
Letters page 27
Media, page 48



Neville Lawrence and Jack Straw at the vandalised memorial plaque

**Met given
seven days
to agree
on payout**

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

THE family of Stephen Lawrence yesterday gave Sir Paul Condon a week to respond to their claim for negligence against the Metropolitan Police. Yesterday Imran Khan, the family's solicitor, declined to reveal the sum being sought but the family could hope to win about £50,000 for the trauma they suffered as a result of the incompetent police investigation.

The Lawrence inquiry report by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny condemned the investigation and the way in which Stephen's parents were treated as "unprofessional, insensitive and abysmal".

Mr Khan said: "I will be writing to the Commissioner asking him to give compensation to the family for the way in which they have been treated during the course of this incompetent and grossly negligent murder investigation. If they do not respond satisfactorily I am prepared to give them seven days and after that we will then take the matter to court."

"It has got nothing to do with money, but the family are entitled to do that. We awaited the outcome of this report to see how far this report went. It has gone a long way and it clearly indicates that there was gross negligence and incompetence fuelled by racism."

Mr Khan said he hoped that the Commissioner would settle the claim without delay but that in the past the police had always been very defensive. "I hope they won't follow in those footsteps. I hope they will consider that it is right and just that Mr and Mrs Lawrence deserve compensation for what they have been through. I hope it will be an easy process. History tells me that it may not be."

Police sources suggested it was unlikely that Sir Paul would take any action before receiving formal notification of the claim. It is equally unlikely, however, that the Met would contest the case in court. The family has the choice of suing individual officers, many of whom are criticised heavily in the inquiry report, or Sir Paul as head of the force, or both.

Police enjoyed blanket immunity from civil claims for negligence until a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights last year. Twenty judges of the Strasbourg court ruled unanimously that the public had the right to hold police to account for negligence in adversarial proceedings. The decision came after the family of a man shot dead by a teacher who had become obsessed with his son challenged an Appeal Court ruling that they could not sue police for their alleged failure to protect him.

The Lawrences are also considering a civil action against the five men suspected of killing Stephen. This is an option that they put on hold for the duration of the Macpherson inquiry.

Officers 'may ignore crimes by minorities'

BY ADAM FRESCO

SERGEANT Ian Clark fears that police officers may now ignore petty crime by ethnic minorities to avoid the risk of being accused of racism. The community officer said the Met's rank and file were worried about the impact of the Lawrence case on their work.

As he walked the streets of East London yesterday, Sergeant Clark, 33, an officer for 14 years, said: "There is a real danger that officers will ignore some minor crime or not stop a black person they suspect of doing something for fear of being falsely accused. They may think it is not worth the aggravation that comes with a complaint, whether it is justified or not. There will then be an inquiry and a question mark over that officer's integrity."

The fear of that gives the criminal an extra string to their bow to argue against whatever it is they have been accused of, to claim they have been racially abused. There are occasions when we get to an incident, are not sure what has happened and everyone is a potential suspect. If you are too careful you may end up not doing something we would otherwise have done."

Sergeant Clark, originally from Aberdeen, is stationed at Ilford, which has a high proportion of people from ethnic

"Police join up to do good, but they are worried they will make a mistake and be a scapegoat"

minorities. He said that officers accepted that changes had to be made to make things better, but not all accepted that every change was for the best. The prospect of integrity testing, using undercover officers to catch racist colleagues, was a worry to many. "It may mean people are engineered into a situation where they make a mistake. The good ones are worried they will make an honest mistake and be made a scapegoat."

"In a year's time, there is going to be legislation three inches thick and no one will be able to remember all of it and mistakes will be made. The Commissioner needs to have something in place to deal with the bad apples but that does not alienate the good ones. Most officers are not happy with the report. The feeling is that the outcome was decided before it was finished. From what I have read and heard, the police were not able to give a full account of themselves."

"By all accounts, the police investigation into the murder



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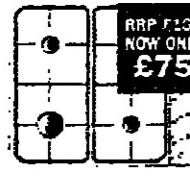
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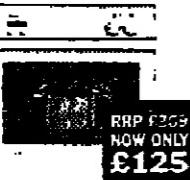
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by Michael Ross

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Fears grow of Dome boycott by churches

Evidence reveals divide, report Mark Henderson and Ruth Gledhill

A CHURCH boycott of new year celebrations at the Millennium Dome moved closer yesterday as organisers of the celebrations failed to support the Culture Secretary's guarantee that religion would be at the centre of the event.

Chris Smith's promise of a Church-sponsored "Millennium Moment" in the build-up to midnight was not repeated by the New Millennium Experience Company or Lord Falconer of Thoroton, the government minister in charge of the Dome, in their evidence to the Commons Culture Select Committee.

Robert Ayling, chairman of the New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC), would confirm only that the organisation was "formulating proposals" for "an event that is inclusive for everyone". Lord Falconer said a religious element would be "appropriate" but he could not say what form it might take.

David Faber, a Conservative member of the select committee, said the men's position was clearly "at odds" with Mr Smith's promise to the committee on Wednesday.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who has said he may boycott the Dome if there is no Christian prayer, said after yesterday's evidence that his threat still stood. "We are now in discussion. We will see where we are

when they have made up their minds on what they are going to do." The archbishop has insisted that the ceremony be anchored in the incarnation of Christ and said that "unless there is some Christian component in the celebration, I won't be there".

Cardinal Basil Hume said yesterday that he would celebrate new year in Westminster Cathedral if religion were sidelined in the Dome. "At midnight on December 31 it would be right to be at prayer," he told BBC Radio 4's *Today*.

Even Mr Smith's offer did not go far enough, he said, as the Millennium Moment—in which candles will be lit and

an ecumenical "affirmation" read for a minute's reflection—would not mention God or Jesus and would take place well before midnight.

Cardinal Hume suggested that, instead, Dr Carey should read a short prayer in the five minutes before midnight. "All I am asking for is about a minute-and-a-half. Midnight is a very significant time and I think minds and hearts should be raised into the presence of God."

Lord Falconer, before the select committee since replacing Peter Mandelson as the Government's shareholder in NMEC, distanced himself

IT WAS NO EASIER LAST TIME

At the turn of this millennium, Aelfric, Archbishop of Canterbury, was embroiled in a battle between the forces of spirituality and secularism not unlike that faced by Dr Carey. Aelfric detested the forces of secularism in the Church and expelled the secular clergy from his cathedral, installing monks instead. He disparaged those who read a little Latin and "fancied themselves great scholars". The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of 995 said that the new archbishop was "a very wise man, so that there was no sager man in England".

The country was beset by Viking invasions, which were seen as a portent of apocalypse. The Vikings preyed on the weakness of King Aethelred II (whose nickname, Unready, means "badly advised", not "the unready"). The raids were also considered divine punishment for Aethelred having assumed the throne when his half-brother was murdered.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle describes it as a time of

"much evil by burning and by manslaying". On the other hand, there was no Millennium Dome to worry about.

Zones could change during the year if their content proved unpopular or their design impractical, she said. "We will keep a close eye on how they work and if it looks like there are areas that need refreshing we will do it."



Jayne and Jodie Scrivens: they had no lights or helmets when they were struck by a car while cycling in the dark

Twins died defying orders not to cycle in the dark

By RACHAEL CROFTS

IDENTICAL twin sisters who

on the evening of September 11 last year, saying they were going out on a nearby road and instructed about riding their bicycles after dark, an inquest was told yesterday. Jodie and Jayne Scrivens, 13, were hit by a car as they cycled home without lights or helmets.

Raymond Scrivens said that the twins left home in Bushbury, Wolverhampton,

cyclist. Mr Medicote saw the driver brake and then speed off. He gave chase but lost the car on a housing estate, the inquest heard.

The driver of the Passat, Anthony Barrs, a car salesroom manager from Bushbury, Wolverhampton, later returned to the scene.

He told police that his primary concern was to reach a telephone and his home was two minutes away. "I rang the ambulance service and requested assistance. I told her I had hit something and that I was going back to the scene."

Mr Barrs said he had stopped at a pub on his way home from work and had drunk 1½ pints of lager. A breath test at the roadside proved negative. He said he had a mobile phone with him but had not used it because he didn't know where it was in the car.

John James, the South Staffordshire Deputy Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

After the inquest a police spokesman said that Mr Barrs had been charged with failing to stop at the scene of an accident. — (PA)

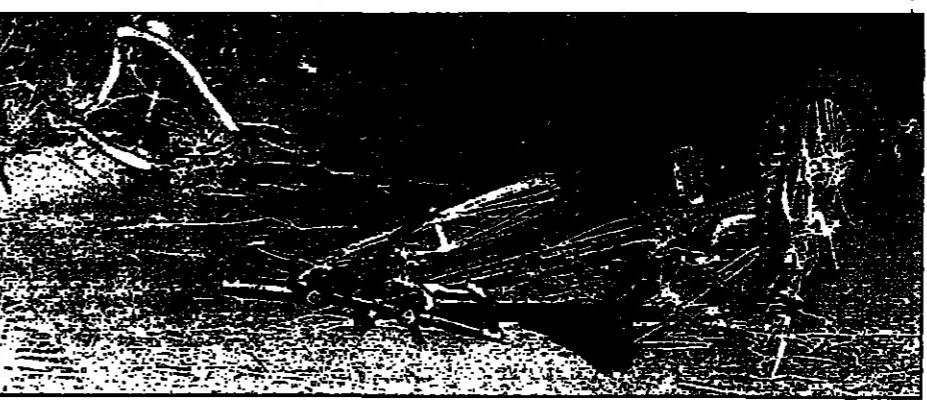


Raymond Scrivens: search for daughters

tail from head and chest injuries.

Miss Brown wept as she told how she had lied to protect the girls. She had said she had not seen them since 6pm because she did not want to get them into trouble.

Andrew Medicote, a witness to the collision, said that his Vauxhall Corsa was overtaken by a VW Passat "in a right and proper manner" but as the vehicle passed him, he caught sight of a reflector and realised the other driver had hit somebody, possibly a



The twisted frame of one of the girls' prized mountain bikes after the collision

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Census to ask: how much do you earn?

New questions will pinpoint poorest areas, reports Alexandra Frean

THE Government wants Britons to disclose their annual income in the next official census. A White Paper is expected to announce next week.

A new 20-page census form, containing more personal questions than before, will for the first time ask people whether they earn less or more than £25,000. Those earning less will be asked which of several income brackets they fall into.

Although ministers are aware that not everybody can be expected to answer truthfully, they believe it will provide valuable information about the whereabouts of the nation's most deprived areas.

"This is not about finding out where the fat cats are. It is more to do with looking at the lower end of the income scale as one way of measuring social exclusion," the Office for National Statistics said.

Because census confidentiality is protected by legislation, it should — in theory at least — be impossible for information about named individuals to be passed to other government agencies, such as Inland Revenue.

A question on income is nevertheless risky. In trials two years ago, involving 74,000 households in England and Wales, far fewer forms were returned from areas where the income question was included than from those where it was omitted.

The income question is likely to be tested again in the Census Rehearsal on April 25, which will involve 126,000 households in seven local authorities in England, Wales

and Scotland. If the trials are successful, it will be included in the new national form to be issued in 2001.

Other new questions include asking people their religion for the first time since 1881, asking if they care for a sick or dependent family member or friend, and requesting details about their state of health.

In another break with tradition, the Government announced yesterday that the huge job of processing more than 30 million census forms in 2001 has been awarded to the American company Lockheed Martin, better known as a defence contractor. The contract is worth £50 million and is the first time that the job has been awarded to a private contractor.

Art Johnson of Lockheed Martin, which is also contracted to run the American census in 2000, said that the company had developed new scanning and optical-recognition software to enable the forms to be processed by computer for the first time. Previously, each form had to be individually read and the information entered onto computer by hand.

Forms will be available in English and Welsh and translations of the questions will be available on separate sheets in 20 languages.

The information will be stored on digital tape and the forms destroyed after they have been processed — another first. This is largely an economy measure: the 1991 paper work occupies 19 miles of 12ft high shelf space.



Wellard from *EastEnders* makes a play for Gill Raddings



Paws for thought: two of the bull terriers take a break from their exertions, while Strapper the Jack Russell prepares to show what he can do

Dogs take the lead in park performance

By ROBIN YOUNG

A SELECTION of likely-looking Crufts contenders went on parade in London yesterday to demonstrate that the annual dog show is about more than aristocratic pedigree. It also emphasises training and good behaviour.

Unfortunately, the latter seemed to be in short supply. A quartet of bull terriers — Alice, Tallis, Rupert and Teddy — described as "miniature" but quite large enough, had to be taken out of Kennel Club headquarters in a state of over-excitement and allowed to romp off their high spirits by barking round Green Park.

A pair of highly refined borzois, Adenov and Alage, could not bear to be parted from each other. "They are brother and sister and he howls like a

mad thing if she is taken even a couple of yards away," Sue Simon, their rueful owner, said. She added: "We will have to take the lift down. We don't do stairs."

Bailey, a sturdy dogue de Bordeaux called on to perform for photographers, consistently sauntered off in the opposite direction.

However Gill Raddings and Julie Totman of the Stunt Dogs Agency were on hand to prove that some dogs can be taught to act well enough to earn their owners a reasonable living.

They had taken along Wellard, currently starring in *EastEnders*; Saracen, a long-haired German shepherd that is now Nick Berry's dog in *Harbour Lights*, having been

thrown out as an eight-month-old by a family who found it impossible to cope with; and Strapper, a versatile little terrier with a string of screen credits as long as a borzoi's nose.

"They can do a lot of useful tricks," Ms Raddings said. "Like rolling over, walking on their hind legs or playing dead."

For the photographers' pleasure, Ms Totman showed off the dogs' abilities by putting the comely Strapper around her neck, where he proceeded to give a passable impression of a fox fur. After that, the dogs made a collective decision that it was time for walkies.

□ Crufts 1999 is at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from March 11 to 14.

Computer blamed for gun payout delays

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

COMPUTER breakdowns and poorly designed claim forms have caused serious delays in the payment of compensation to people forced to surrender their handguns.

Many owners required to hand over weapons because of the ban imposed after the Dunblane massacre are still awaiting compensation, according to a report published by the National Audit Office today.

The government spending watchdog found that there were weaknesses in the compensation system that made checking difficult. Its report says that technical experts should have been consulted before the development of a computer system to deal with claims.

The Home Office system had been brought into operation while faults were still occurring. During the first months that claims were being assessed, there had been "numerous and unpredictable" systems failures and the system had not been running properly until December 1997, six months after guns had first been surrendered.

Handgun ownership was banned in 1997, leading to the biggest surrender of legally held firearms in the United Kingdom. Large-calibre weapons had to be handed in by the end of September 1997, and small-calibre guns by the end of February 1998.

The report noted that on the limited information available, it now appeared that many of the illegal weapons had been replaced by other types of legal weapons, such as muzzle-loading pistols, rifles or shotguns.

The report says that more than 162,000 handguns have been handed in, 25,000 fewer than the original estimated by Home Office officials. By the end of last October, the Home Office had paid out £61 million in compensation.

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The 13-bedroom Caledonian Hotel in peaceful Dunoon, population 6,500, could go for £150,000 to pay for a terrace house in frenetic Lewisham, population 243,000, for sale for between £115,000 and £140,000



Hotelier quits Scottish peace for London terrace, report Claudia Joseph and Michael Horsnall

WITH its beautiful lochs, rocky islands and golf courses, the remote Scottish countryside of Argyllshire seemed the ideal place to retire.

But after only 18 months in the small tranquil town of Dunoon, on the Clyde, Iain Campbell has decided that he prefers the busy streets of the South London borough of Lewisham.

Now he is trying to swap his 13-bedroom, 18th-century Caledonian Hotel for a three-bedroom Victorian terrace house back in the capital.

Mr Campbell, 58, who left his home town of Glasgow in the Sixties, said yesterday: "I have had several calls already.

"I know I wasn't the only lunatic in London to have dreamed of living in God's country, with the peace and quiet and tranquillity, the fresh air and howling gales."



of the three-bedroom, Victorian terrace house that Mr Campbell hopes to acquire. "These properties go for between £15,000 and £140,000, depending on the area. Lewisham has become a popular and trendy area over the past 18 months."

Mr Campbell, who claims to be the inspiration for Gerry Rafferty's hit, *Baker Street*, misses his daughter Siobhan, 19, a student at Camberwell College, his former partner Kate and a host of friends.

"I moved back as a kind of nostalgia thing. The countryside is beautiful round here. Loch Lomond is only a half-hour drive away. There are also the golf courses, which are superb. I had friends who were always complaining that there was a shortage of good courses in London."

"But I really miss it down there, the people, the buzz and the way of life. All my mates are in London and I want to go back."

"I know that I am mad but I have become a Londoner of the southeastern variety."

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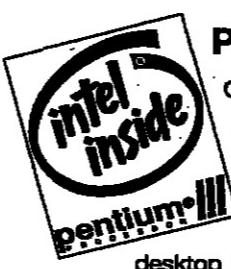
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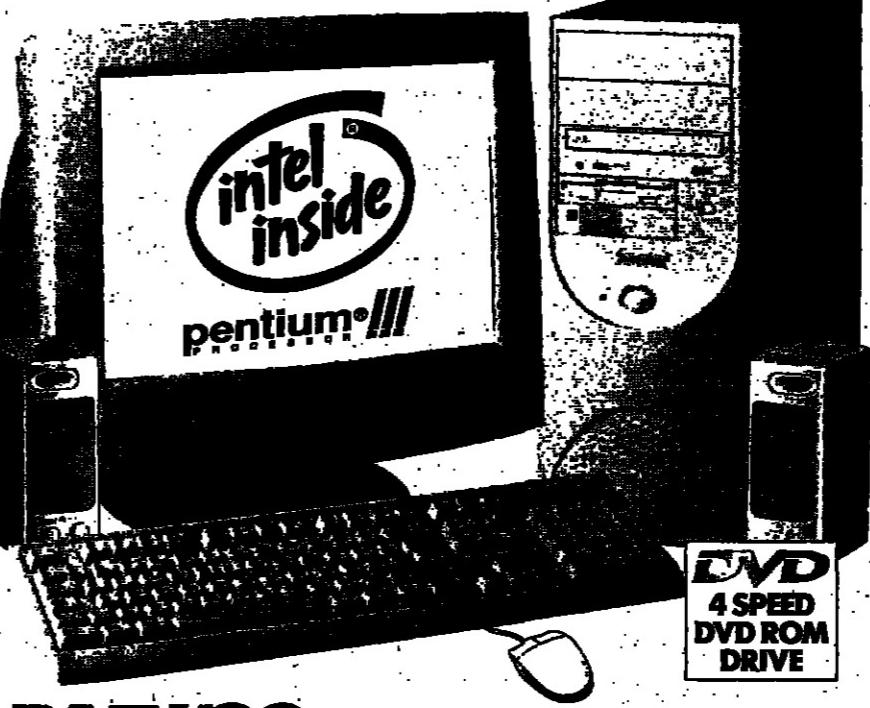
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Jail's food makes porridge palatable

BY SIMON DE BRUYNE

NO ONE has escaped from Swansea's Victorian jail for years. A possible reason emerged yesterday when the prison was named one of the best places to eat in the city.

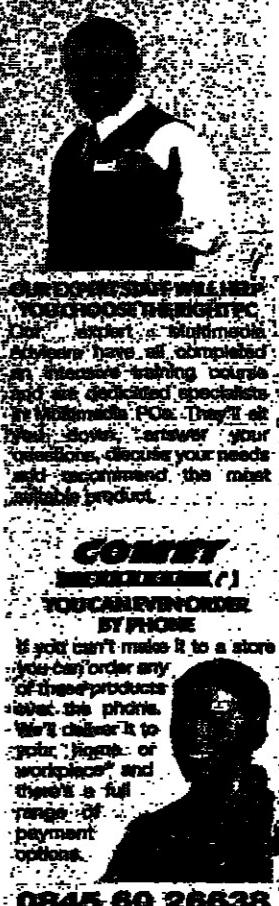
The newly refined kitchens saw off 50 other entrants in the annual contest organised by the city council. Last night the inmates were dining on a menu that included chicken supreme, beef goulash and pasta Italiano.

One said: "Some people eat better here than they do at home. I've put on two stone since I came in."

The jail won the gold award despite a budget of £1.41 per prisoner per day. Fresh produce is guaranteed by the prison farm; buying is confined to what is cheap in the market that day.

Christine Steele, leader of the team that inspected the 50 establishments, said: "They may have a captive clientele but the food is very nice."

Gary Deighton, the Governor, said: "I'm delighted we're rated as a great place to eat but there's no chance of booking a table here. Every seat is reserved for our regulars."



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Jail's
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Room with a view: models wearing designs by Luella Bartley mingle with guests at the show in a Camden flat

Cancer linked to sperm count

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

Men with a low sperm count have twice the normal risk of developing testicular cancer, a study has found. The researchers do not believe that one condition leads to the other but they think that they are caused by the same unknown factors. The most likely explanation is thought to be chemicals that affected the men while they were in the womb.

Scientists from the Danish National Research Foundation studied the records of all living men born in Denmark between 1916 and 1970. The results, reported in the *British Medical Journal*, showed that the risk of testicular cancer fell with each child fathered.

Two new iron brews

Scientists have come up with two ways of preventing iron deficiency, which affects nearly four billion people.

American researchers have discovered a way to genetically manipulate crops so that they become several times richer in iron or super-efficient at extracting the mineral from the soil. Canadian scientists have found that providing poor people with iron pots means they and their children grow healthier as the iron dissolves into their food.

Ouch-free plasters

A plaster that can be removed with less pain and damage to the skin has been developed (Nigel Hawkes writes).

It sticks as firmly as ordinary plasters but is removed by first stripping off a backing layer. That exposes the underlying plaster to light, which destroys the adhesives and enables it to be removed easily.

The plaster, which will be put on sale by Smith & Nephew in about two years, will be valuable to babies and elderly people, whose skin is fragile.



Casey: at present deputy director of Shelter

Homeless get new ally in Whitehall

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE woman appointed by the Government yesterday to champion the cause of homeless people said that she had first begun working with them after realising she could easily have shared their fate.

Louise Casey, who has now been dubbed the homelessness "czar", had wanted to leave home in Portsmouth and gain some independence when she was a youngster: she found a job in a holiday camp. "If I had not found this residential job on Hayling Island, I don't know what I would have done," she said.

"I sometimes think that is why so many young people today end up on the streets. They don't have anywhere to go and residential jobs are not easy to come by. I was bloody lucky and I think that is what has drawn me to work with homeless people."

Her task is to find places to stay for 400 rough sleepers in London and to be a troubleshooter in government for the homeless throughout Britain.

Mrs Casey, 33, deputy director of the charity Shelter, who begins her new job in May, intends to concentrate on easing the return to the community of servicemen and women, prisoners, and the mentally ill. She said that many people left institutions and could not cope. "I want to prevent them ending up as rough sleepers."

She is to head a unit in the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, with a budget of £145 million over three years.

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Dedicated followers of fashion take a diversion



Guided by Chinese whispers and a street map, Lisa Armstrong boldly goes to the off-schedule shows that challenge the organisational skills, as well as the senses, of the world's fashion editors

be off-schedule. Bella Freud, who has long been part of the official set-up, struck out on her own this time with a chic collaboration with the actor John Malkovich. He directed a six-minute film in which the London Underground got a starring role and flashes of Freud's clothing were glimpsed.

Teresa Brach, the daughter of an Austrian heiress who has shown off-schedule for the past two seasons, put her collection of sporty-cum-decorative pieces on the Internet. It cost her £5,000 to set up the website and collate a CD-Rom that allow her clothes to be viewed 24 hours a day.

Are the off-schedule designers any good? Yes and, in some cases, perhaps. Will they sell? Emphatically yes. Barley has been approached by Saks Fifth Avenue. Fox already sells in Liberty. Brach has had appointments with Japanese buyers all week.

As Calvin Klein said in New York last week: "There's so much talent pouring out of your art and fashion schools all the time, it's incredible."

Style, page 24

FASHION editors spent the past two days penetrating parts of the capital that previous London Fashion Weeks failed to reach.

The off-schedule schedule grew by the hour. That made life fraught for native Londoners, let alone foreigners. "Where or what exactly is Flat 2?" asked one perplexed Italian journalist, sounding off to invest in a street map.

The flat in question was in deepest Camden and belonged to Steve Mackey, of the pop band Pulp. He had lent it to his friend Luella Bartley for her to present her collection of tongue-in-cheek town and country clothes. Then it was east to Shoreditch to watch Shelley Fox's strangely beautiful catwalk debut.

Even finding details about the shows was a challenge. Chinese whispers rustled through the front row of the first show each morning. By day three, if someone had started a rumour that the Prince of Wales had designed a neo-punk range, there would have been a flurry of cashmere outside Buckingham Palace.

The off-schedule shows have

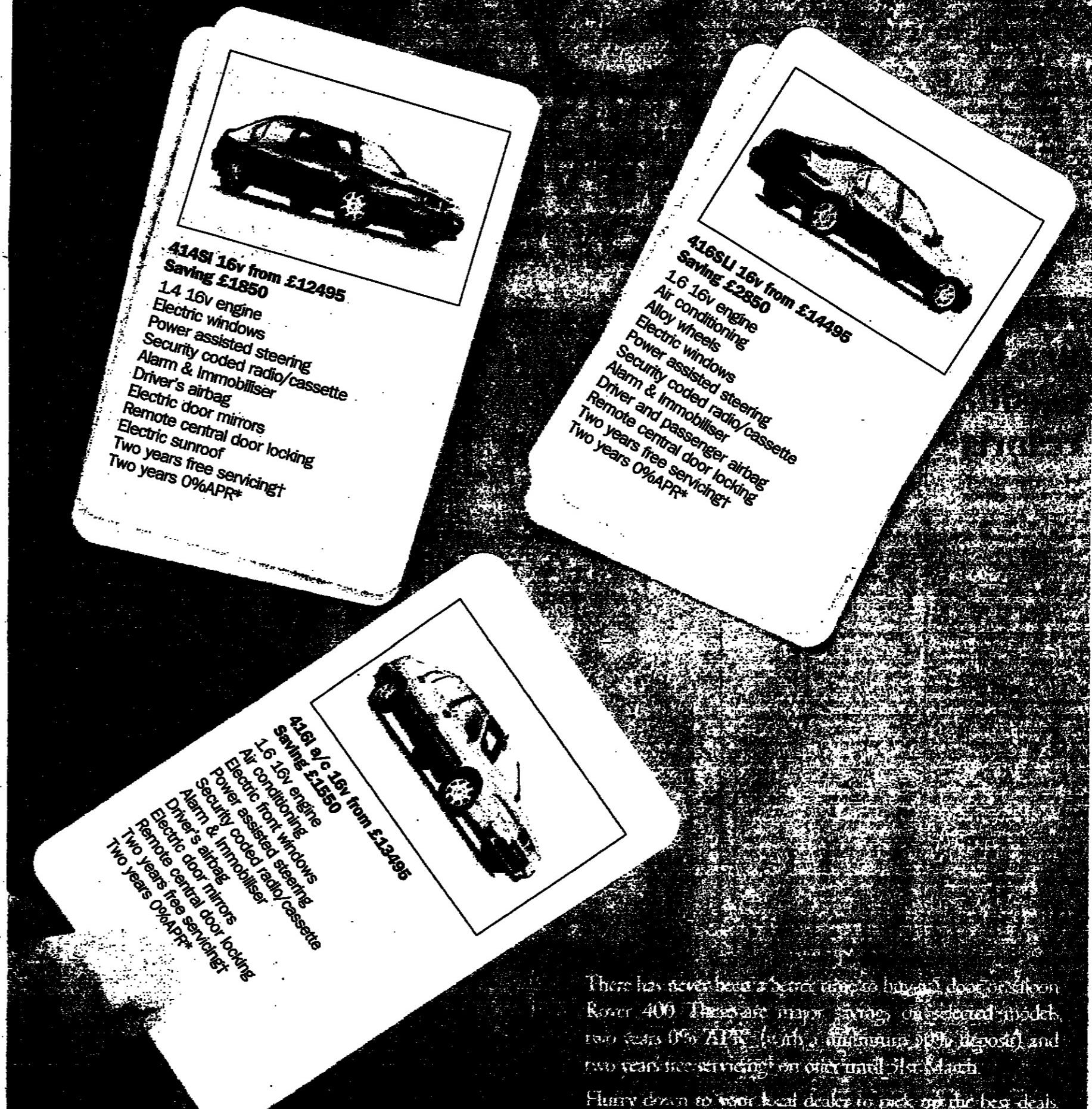
not room for everyone who would like to be there.

The "off-piste" shows have, however, injected some much-needed sparkle into proceedings. Dai Rees, whose delicate millinery was previously something of an inside secret, unexpectedly launched into clothing. His elegant collection featured drapes and the tweed and tartan mohair that have been a recurrent theme this week. "I need to branch out if my business is to grow and a show is the fastest route to attracting attention," Rees said.

He would have liked to be on-schedule but was rejected on the grounds of space. Other designers prefer to be off-schedule: it adds a touch of edgy credibility, rather like playing off Broadway.

Sometimes they even like to

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Labour support falls to lowest since election

Poll shows Tory fortunes recovering in aftermath of genetically modified foods row, writes Peter Riddell

SUPPORT for Labour and satisfaction with the Government have slipped to the lowest levels since the general election after the row over the Government's handling of the genetically modified foods controversy, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that support for the Tories has jumped from 24 to 30 per cent since late January, while Labour has slipped five points to 51 per cent.

The Liberal Democrats are unchanged on 14 per cent. But Labour is still higher, and the Tories lower, than their election voting shares.

However, William Hague's approval rating has dropped, especially among Tory supporters. It is too early to say whether Tory fortunes are at last recovering on a sustained basis, or whether it is just a one-month blip.

Apart from the shift in voting intentions, the negative points for Labour are an increase in dissatisfaction with the Government's performance.

The balance of those satisfied less dissatisfied is now even at 45 per cent on each side, for the first time since the general election. Similarly, Mr Blair's rating has continued to slip to its lowest level since the election.

However, nearly three-fifths of the public (58 per cent) is satisfied with the way he is doing his job as Prime Minister, with a third (34 per cent) dissatisfied. The net balance of plus 24 points is down from plus 30 points or more for most of last year. However, the ratings of Mr Blair, the Government and Labour are still much higher than for parties in office at the similar stages of previous Parliaments.

The Tories may be solidifying their core support and have picked up among those aged over 55, those living in the South and women, but they have yet to win back those

who deserted them in 1997. Mr Hague still faces a serious image problem despite the publicity he received from his recent trip to the USA.

Less than a quarter of the public (23 per cent) is satisfied with his performance with more than half (53 per cent) dissatisfied.

This net balance of minus 30 points is the lowest since last September.

However, Mr Hague's rating among Tory supporters has deteriorated dramatically over the past month with 55 per cent dissatisfied and just 28 per cent satisfied. This net balance of minus 27 points compares with minus 4 points a month ago and is his worst ever figure. That underlines the importance for Mr Hague of the Tories doing well in the forthcoming Scottish, Welsh, local government and European elections.

Moreover, the public is becoming less worried about the economic outlook and the threat of recession after the series of cuts in interest rates.

The MORI economic optimism index, measuring the balance of those thinking that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, now stands at minus 15 points, compared with minus 23 points in late January, and is the best figure since last May. Women are much more pessimistic than men, and those aged over 55 more pessimistic than those between 35 and 54.

The public also remains confident about the Government's economic policies with nearly a half (49 per cent) agreeing that, in the long term, they will improve the state of Britain's economy with less than a third (31 per cent) disagreeing.

This balance is only slightly down on a year ago before the last Budget, despite the evidence of slowdown.

While the net balance of plus 18 points is the lowest since Labour came to power, it

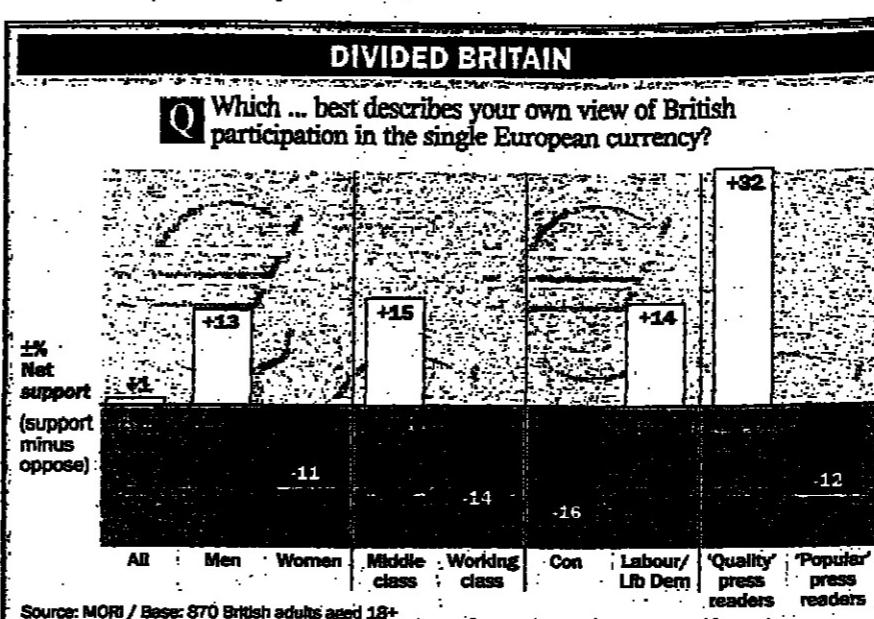
Everything to play for in euro debate

Peter Riddell
ON POLITICS

Eurosceptics claim that the People (and it is always in capital letters) are on their side. They should not be so sure. The latest MORI poll suggests that the public is evenly divided and that there is everything to play for in what will probably be a three-year referendum campaign. The poll was taken before Tony Blair's statement on Tuesday so the figures might show greater support for entry now.

The key point is that the poll does not assume that opinion is static and firm but differentiates between strong and conditional support and opposition. Of course, the exact balance will vary depending on the exact question asked. A "ditch/save the pound" question would produce different answers. But the balance of opinion against entry has narrowed since the election.

The latest poll confirms the instinctive view that there is a hard core which strongly opposes British participation in the euro. This is now around a quarter of the public, slightly more in the pro than the anti camp. This includes 53 per cent of Labour supporters and 45 per



Source: MORI / Base: 870 British adults aged 18+

cent of Tories. This is consistent with regular polls that MORI Financial Services does for Salomon Smith Barney which shows that the gap between pros and cons is roughly ten points smaller if people are asked about their attitudes if the Government strongly urged that Britain should be part of a single currency, as would happen in a referendum.

The Blair Government is not therefore facing a majority of sceptics, but rather a minority of diehard opponents, and half the public which says it is persuadable either way.

Persuasion will depend on not only the euro being successful but also on Mr Blair being able to demonstrate entry is in Britain's economic interests, in itself an elastic term.

The sceptics are torn. Some claim adamantly that a majority of people are on their side; hence *The Sun's*

bold assertion yesterday that 121,764 of its readers voted to save the pound, a 15 to 1 margin. This is not in any way a representative poll, but rather a demonstration that some readers feel strongly enough to pick up a telephone, but no guide to the balance of opinion.

The MORI poll shows that 37 per cent of *Sun* readers are strongly opposed and 28 per cent are generally opposed but persuadable, while 13 per cent strongly support entry and 17 per cent generally support but are persuadable. This suggests there are 45 per cent of wavers.

Other sceptics, including the Tory leadership, are worried about the "inevability" argument — that Mr Blair is trying to create a climate where entry is seen as obvious and desirable. The poll shows that two-thirds of the public think it is likely that they and their children will regularly use a single European currency and come by 2010. That is not the same as British entry, but such expectations can affect attitudes.

So don't assume opinion is fixed. It all depends which side is seen as more credible and persuasive. No wonder Mr Blair was smiling on Tuesday at the Tory divisions.

Tide may turn for seaside resorts

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

FADED English tourist resorts are to receive cash help from the Government to help to restore them to their former glory.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has approved a plan to allow local authorities to apply for regeneration grants for "tourism" purposes. The scheme is aimed at the seaside towns where drug addicts, jobless and homeless people have moved into dingy bed and breakfast hotels.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is also to encourage holiday towns to think creatively about developing new attractions and to consider National Lottery cash as a source of funding.

The revamp of the resorts is part of a 15-point strategy to be unveiled today to make Britain a major tourism centre in Europe for the Millennium. Mr Smith believes the publicity surrounding the Millennium Dome at Greenwich will attract another two million people to Britain next year.

He believes those involved in the tourism industry must "raise their game" to cope with the demands from a new breed of traveller.

Tomorrow's Tourism, to be launched in the dome today, will stress the need for greater quality, higher standards and more helpful service at hotels and tourist attractions.



Prescott: approved grant scheme for seaside towns

SNP plan 'is biased against English'

By JASON ALLARDYCE
SCOTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

THE SNP was last night accused of discrimination over plans to abolish tuition fees for Scots but to require English students at Scottish universities to pay.

The party is now considering giving Scotland's 32 councils money to distribute as bursaries only to those living within their boundaries. The SNP strategy, costing at £46 million a year, is designed to prevent an invasion of Scottish universities by students from England desperate to avoid £1,000 a year tuition fees.

The proposal was immediately criticised by politicians and student leaders because only students resident in Scotland would qualify for assistance. It means that about 17,000 English students studying at Scottish universities and further education colleges would continue to pay.

Jim Murphy, the Labour MP for Eastwood, said: "This would be a sad day for Scottish education, which is enriched by its diversity. Under the SNP, students would have to pass two exams: a reasonable academic one and a thoroughly disreputable one on citizenship."

The National Union of Students in London said it supported any moves to abolish tuition fees, but voiced concern that the SNP would penalise thousands of people studying in Scotland because they were not resident there.

Nicola Sturgeon, the SNP education spokesman, refused to confirm or deny any details of the party's education proposals, which will be unveiled next week. Party strategists are now examining whether students from England should be classed as residents in Scotland once they have been accepted for a university place — although this would not get around the problem of Scottish universities being flooded with applications from all over the UK.

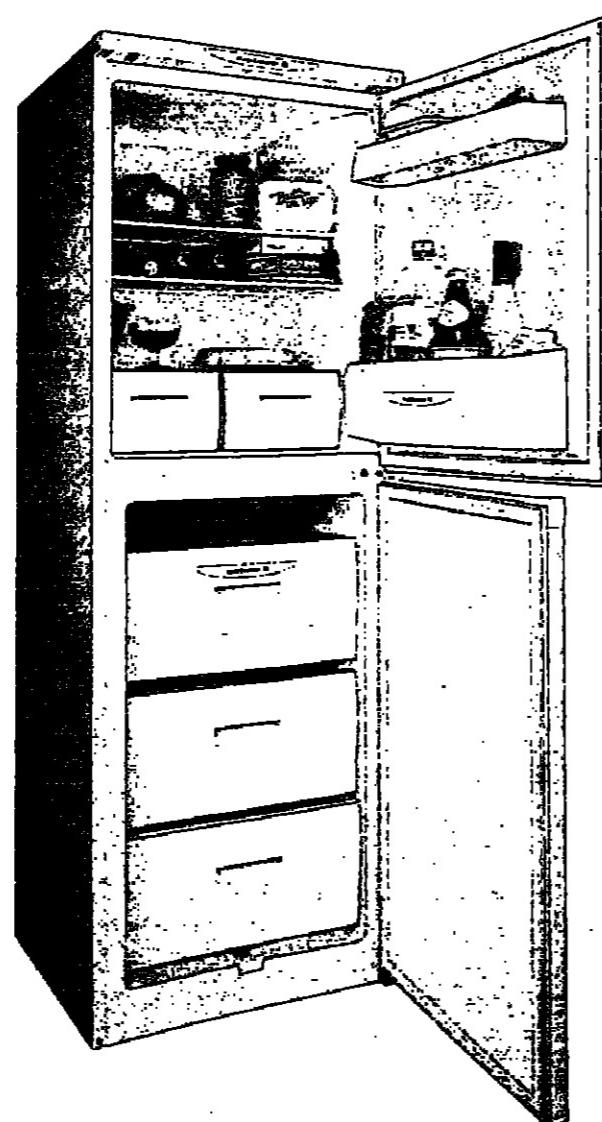
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Register of Members' Interests: updated figures show politicians admitting they are earning thousands of pounds from part-time journalism

MPs who profit by swing to the write

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than a quarter of all MPs last year earned between a few pounds and £55,000 from the media, according to the new Register of Members' Interests.

Some 184 MPs admitted yesterday that they had accepted money for journalism.

The register, which had not been updated for more than a year, reveals MPs to be more diligent — or more cautious — than before.

Not only are the existing entries more detailed, but more MPs have declared something for the first time. While 145 MPs failed to declare any interests in October 1997, only 112 this time did not make an entry.

The register includes an entry by Peter Mandelson about the loan he received from Geoffrey Robinson "to assist in purchase of [a] home" while Mr Robinson, the former Paymaster General, uses the Register to declare for the first time the Guernsey-based trust from

which he is a discretionary beneficiary.

The MPs making money from the media comprised 82 Labour MPs, 76 Tories, 20 Liberal Democrats and a handful of members from minority parties. In the language of the Register, they made "occasional earnings from journalism and broadcasting".

For some MPs, the payments amount to nothing more than a few hundred pounds in recompense for the occasional television interview. Some MPs say the money goes to a favourite charity or their constituency funds.

But for others it is a major source of income. The highest earner is George Galloway (Lab, Glasgow Kelvin) who earned almost £55,000 for a regular column in the Scottish edition of the *Mail on Sunday*.

Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, did equally well: she earned £15,000 from making six programmes for Channel 4, and

her new six-month contract for a weekly column in the *Sunday Express* will net her almost £40,000. Neither come close to the previous record held by Lord Hattersley, who in the January 1997 Register admitted to earning almost £100,000 a year from journalism.

Frank Field, the former Welfare Reform minister, gets up to £20,000 for a regular column in the *Sunday People*. Roseanne Cunningham (SNP, Perth) earns the same amount for a weekly column in the *Scottish Mirror*.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, gets up to £15,000 for a weekly column in the *New of the World*; he also writes a weekly racing column for *The Herald*.

Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, earns up to £15,000 a year for a weekly interview or commentary on Bloomberg Television.

David Curry, Tory MP for Skipton and Ripon, earned up

to £10,000 a year for a column in *Farming News*.

Accountancy Age, a trade magazine, seems a popular source of cash for MPs. Nick Gibb (C, Bognor Regis and Littlehampton) gets up to £5,000 a year for an occasional column, as does Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman.

Stuart Bell (Lab, Middlesbrough) — who earned up to £15,000 for regular articles for the *Financial Mail on Sunday* — also picked up £5,000 from *Accountancy Age*. Jim Cousins (Lab, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Central) got up to £10,000 a year for a regular column in the magazine.

Sir Patrick Cormack (C, South Staffordshire) earned up to £15,000 a year as editor of *The House Magazine*, the Westminster parish magazine.

His assistant editors, Charles Kennedy, a potential replacement for Paddy Ashdown, John Healey (Lab, Wentworth) and Austin Mitchell (Lab, Great Grimsby) were each paid up to £5,000.

Paul Stinchcombe (Lab, Wellington) earned up to £10,000 for a monthly column in *Planning Magazine*. Phil Woolas (Oldham East and Saddleworth) earned a fee for doing a television commentary for the TUC congress.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, is non-executive chairman of the media group which publishes several major regional newspapers.

Tim Yeo, Shadow Agriculture Minister, writes for *Country Life*.

ANN WIDDECOMBE: £55,000



GEORGE GALLOWAY: £55,000



FRANK FIELD: £20,000



ALEX SALMOND: £15,000



Shellfish and spoons fill the gift hamper

BY MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

MPs declare a wealth of gifts, including membership to Stringfellow's and an unspecified "quantity of crabs and lobsters". The latter was received by the veteran Tory MP for Totnes, Sir Anthony Sneed, who was presented with an unstated amount of shellfish to honour his services to the fishing in-

dustry. It is not recorded why Nigel Evans, the Labour MP for Ribble Valley, was given a pass to Stringfellow's.

Like every other MP, they are obliged to register any gift that is valued above £125. Charles Wardle, the former Tory minister and MP for Bexhill and Battle, has registered a hamper that he received on his birthday. Mr Wardle makes a point of saying this was completely "unsolicited",

which is not surprising given the hamper came from Harrods, proprietor Mohamed Al Fayed.

Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, emerges as equally cautious. Under "Gifts, benefits and hospitality", Ms Widdecombe includes "one BBC teacup bent and signed... intrinsic value nil". However, the spoon was presented to Ms Widdecombe by Uri Geller, who told her that a similar spoon had raised a five-figure sum at a charity auction.

On the whole, Labour MPs do not seem to attract such high quality presents as their Tory counterparts. Gerry Birmingham (St Helens South) owns up to the loan of a satelite dish, while Jane Huws (Blackpool North and Fleetwood), has only one entry in the register, a model sailing ship from P&O Ltd.

Match tickets are top leisure goal

BY MARK INGLEFIELD

WATCHING football is the most popular leisure perk for MPs. Nearly 30, both women and men, have revealed they have been given tickets and hospitality for national and international matches over the past two years.

Although rugby internationals, test matches and Wimbledon feature in the Register of Members' Interests, football is the preferred form of corporate entertainment.

Jim Wallace, the Scottish Liberal Democrat leader and MP for Orkney and Shetland, went to the Scotland v Brazil World Cup match in Paris last year, when Scottish Gas paid for his ticket, hotel and meal. The company also arranged for David Marshall, Labour Member for Glasgow Shettleston, to attend the match.

But they were not alone. Tom Pendry, the Labour MP for Staybridge and Hyde, was at the game as a guest of the StudiVarios Group, who paid for his travel on the Eurostar and a night's stay in Paris. Stephen Hepburn, the Labour MP for Jarrow, went one better. He spent three days in Paris as a guest of Epinay-sur-Seine for the World Cup final between France and Brazil.

No only international games attract MPs. Judith Church, Labour MP for Dagenham, took her family to watch Tottenham Hotspur play Everton and Middlesbrough. On both occasions she was the guest of Hillside Management Group.

Littlewoods Pools gave hospitality and two tickets for last year's FA Cup final to Jane Kennedy, Labour MP for Liverpool. Wavertree. Bill Rammell, the Labour MP for Hartlepool, attended a European Cup match between Arsenal and Lens at Wembley as a guest of McDonald's.

Tories favoured other sports. One of them, Bernard Jenkin, Shadow Transport spokesman, had a day's shooting at Boxed, Essex.

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Tide turns in favour of wave power

Nick Nuttall
reports on
new plans to
get electricity
from the sea
as costs fall

MACHINES named Whiplash and Limpet are to pioneer the commercial development of wave power in Britain. Nearly a decade after the Government withdrew support for wave schemes, the technology is to be given renewed backing after studies showing that costs have more than halved.

Lord McDonald, the Scottish Business and Industry Minister, said yesterday that wave-power projects at Islay had support under a special levy on electricity bills to encourage green schemes.

"This will open up new opportunities for a range of technologies," he announced at a meeting at Aeprac, a wind turbine blade maker in Glenrothes. The schemes in Scotland for wave power and a £42 million wood-burning power plant have been approved along with a string of wind-power projects. The approval guarantees a market and premium price for generators of green power plants during the costly start-up phase.

The cost of electricity generated from wave power is down to about 7p a unit. From wind, it is now down to about 2p in some cases, making it as competitive as gas.

Whiplash is the brainchild of Richard Yemm.

It is a tube of steel 100 metres long and 3.4 metres wide, with about 15 special joints. It is moored into the waves and snakes from side to side and up and down. Pumps inside each segment force oil down a

turbine. The turbine spins the opposite way as the waves subside and air is sucked back down. The machine is an improved version of an experimental station built by Queen's University, Belfast. Mr Thomson urged the Government to back wave power south of the border as well.

The new contracts were awarded under the Scottish Renewables Obligation, which means that households pay a subsidy towards higher costs of green power to safeguard the environment by reducing greenhouse gases. A similar levy, the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation, operates in England and Wales. The next round of this will promote the country's first offshore wind schemes.

Mr Thomson said that wave power should be promoted with wind so that the same section of sea can produce far more electricity at a cut price. "You could have wind turbines sitting on top of wave machines."

Details of a third wave machine are being kept confidential until the developers have been told. Lord McDonald also announced plans for Britain's biggest wood-into-power scheme to be built at Morayhill, next door to a timber mill near Inverness.

The 12.9 megawatt power plant is big enough to heat and light about 12,000 homes and will burn wood wastes. It is about two megawatts bigger than one undergoing construction in Yorkshire.

pipe to a hydraulic motor. This in turn drives a generator with the electricity fed via an undersea cable to shore.

Two Whiplash machines, able to generate 750 kilowatts, are to be installed about a mile offshore at Machair Bay, Islay. Dr Yemm, 30, said they would cost about £2.5 million over three years. He added: "I am delighted. This is a very important start for wave power. We are now starting to get the same support as wind power."

There was no reason why the technology could not be deployed elsewhere, he said. Studies by the European Commission indicated that Britain could generate all its electricity from the waves if 0.1 per cent of the wave energy around the coast was collected.

The Limpet wave-power machine is the work of Wavegen, formerly called Advanced Research Technologies, of Inverness. For the company, Allan Thompson said that its machine would be off Islay. Waves smashing into a gully on the island push air to spin a



Winner: Claudia Cardinale at the Giorgio Armani store in Knightsbridge yesterday

Claudia joins highest stars

THE Italian actress Claudia Cardinale was celebrating yesterday after being elevated to an exclusive club that includes Bette Davis and Elizabeth Taylor.

Cardinale, star of films ranging from *The Pink Panther* to *Fitzcarraldo*, was given a reception at the Giorgio Armani store in Knightsbridge, London, the day after being honoured with a Rudolph Valentino Award. The awards, solid gold statuettes, are sponsored by the Italian

Prime Minister and the Motion Picture Association of Italy and given each year to an actor, an actress and a director.

This year's two other winners were the actor Jeremy Irons and the director Bernardo Bertolucci. Cardinale faced competition from June Christie, Kristin Scott Thomas, Maggie Smith and Emma Thompson. As well as Davis and Taylor, previous winners of the actress award include Grace Kelly and Sophia Loren.

Theatre plot to expand creates a scene

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE innovative Hampstead Theatre has angered residents in North London with a £20 million expansion plan that would destroy a park, playground and market.

The National Lottery has already awarded nearly £1 million to take the theatre "through to a design stage", although yesterday the theatre still could not say how much — except to the nearest £10 million — the scheme would cost.

Residents say the park may be small — about the size of a football pitch — and rundown but it is a green space in which to breathe, a place for parents with prams and for the elderly. They fear that an all-weather sports pitch, a playground, a community centre and a street market will also have to make way for a massively expanded theatre with little relevance for most of the community.

Camden council's planning approval ran into strong criticism when it was found that two councillors on the theatre board had voted in favour despite being advised by the council's lawyers to stand aside.

James Williams, the theatre's general manager, said that the 39-year-old building would not survive more than three years because of subsidence and wet and dry rot. Rebuilding on the same site was impossible because it was too small to meet modern regulations. An alternative open space would be found.

The theatre's claim that 60 per cent of the community favours the scheme is widely disputed. John Breckon, managing director of a City conference business, said that developers in the City had shown how to tackle a limited space: "They dig down into the foundations and put up brilliant new buildings."

Another resident said: "It's the cost that's staggering. There's not exactly a shortage of theatres in London. But there is a shortage of green space and sports grounds, especially here."

Adams's lawyer is charged

The Australian lawyer of Gary Adams has been charged with assaulting police. Terry Fisher was allegedly involved in a scuffle on Tuesday night at the Queensland Irish Association in Brisbane, where Mr Adams had been speaking.

Mr Fisher's lawyer, Terry O'Gorman, said his client would "vigorously" deny the charge when he appeared in a Brisbane court on March 10.

Mr Adams is visiting Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and Brisbane but will not meet any senior members of the Australian Government.

Party death

Friends of Ian Clifton photographed him with a blow-up doll at a party not knowing that he was probably dead from alcohol poisoning. A coroner said friends' neglect contributed to the accidental death of Mr Clifton, 35, of Sheffield.

VC sets record

A Victoria Cross won on the second day of fighting in the First World War was bought by a collector for a record £92,000 at auction in London. Major Ernest Alexander earned the VC on August 24, 1914, during the retreat from Mons.

Time to decide

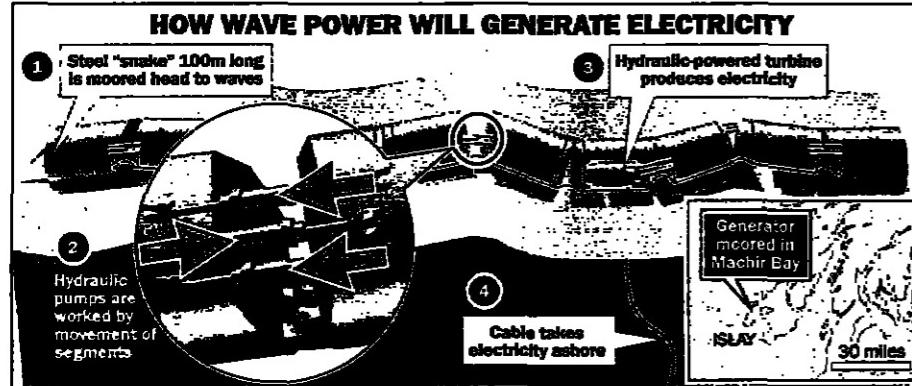
The High Court has reserved judgment on a claim by members of the pit deputies union Naods that RJB Mining is unlawfully requiring them to work more than the 48 hours a week laid down by the new Working Time Regulations.

M-way warning

Drivers are being warned to expect delays on the M1 near Nottingham between 7pm on Saturday, March 6, and 3pm the next day. The section between junctions 24 and 25 will be closed to enable the construction of a roadbridge.

More Madness

The 1980s pop band Madness have reformed their original seven-strong line-up to record the first new songs for 15 years. The group, led by Suggs, presenter of Channel 5's *Night Fever*, are working on a single and an album.



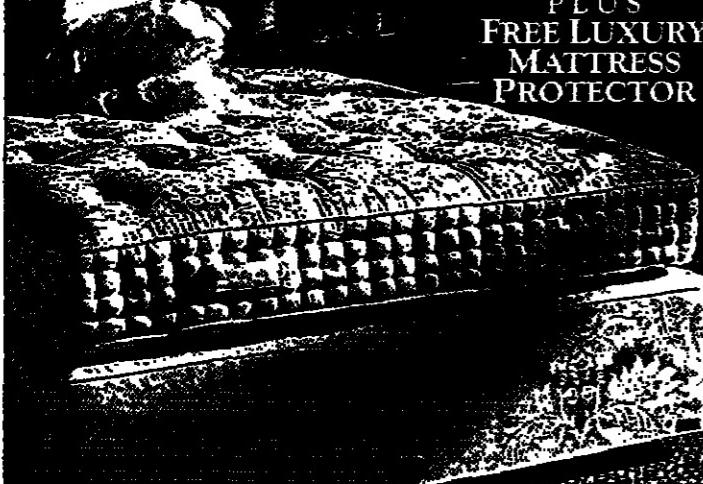
ENDS THIS WEEKEND

SALE

Our entire collection of exclusive international brand and designer furniture is offered at savings from 20% to 50% off our usual prices. Many of these fine items are one only showroom models, which should be viewed this weekend and are available at great sale prices for immediate delivery.

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Call us FREE now. Please quote Reference P188A. Offer valid 7 days a week.
Terms and Conditions. Prices are per room per night. This offer is valid Monday-Sunday and is based on a minimum of 2 consecutive nights and availability and is only valid at participating sites. This offer is subject to promotional rates and is only valid at participating sites. This offer is only valid for bookings made before 31.3.99. This offer is valid for bookings made before 31.3.99. Customers must redeem by 31.3.99. Offer is only available for new bookings. This offer is not available for group bookings of more than 5 rooms per night. Minimum 2 night stay applies to all post 4pm cancellations. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount scheme (shareholder or otherwise). This offer cannot be redeemed for one night only. VAT included in the price at 17.5%. *not all sites.

86

Participating Locations

Scotland and the North
Barnsley, Burnley,
Burton in Kendal, Chester
(Northrop Hall), Crewe,
Doncaster, Dumbarton,
Dumfries, Edinburgh East,
Hull (South Cave),
Kilmarnock, Kinross,
Macclesfield, Manchester
North, Middlewich,
Newcastle North,
Pontefract (Barnsdale),
Preston (Chorley), Sedgefield,
Sheffield,
Skegby Scotch Corner,
St. Helens, Stoke, Widnes.

The Midlands
Bedworth (Nuneaton),
Blyth (Notts), Burton Upon
Trent, Grantham (New Fox),
Grantham North,
Grantham South,
Hartlebury, Leicester North,
Market Harborough,
Northampton (Upton Way),
Nuneaton, Oswestry,
Rettford, Rugeley, Shrewsbury,
Uppingham, Wellingborough,
Worksop.

East Anglia/South East
Cambridge South,
Cambridge West,
Fencing (Colchester),
Hellingly (Eastbourne),
Huntingdon, Ipswich
(Beacon Hill), Ipswich (Capel),
Ipswich (Stowmarket),
King's Lynn (Long Sutton),
Lincoln, Norwich, Sleaford,
Sutton Scarsdale, Thrapston.

The South
Alton (Fourmarks),
Amesbury (Stonehenge),
Barton Mills, Beckington,
Bedford (South West),
Billingshurst (Five Oaks),
Bognor Regis (Fontwell),
Chichester (West), Exeter,
Ilminster, Lipbrook (Hants),
Okehampton East,
Okehampton West,
Oxford, Stonehouse,
Sutton Scarsdale, Sutton
Scarsdale, Tiverton, Worcester
(Silverstone), Warminster.

Wales and Ireland
Bangor, Belfast, Cork,
Halkyn (North Wales),
Llanelli (Cross Hands),
Monmouth, Pencoed,
St. Clears (Carmarthen),
Waterford (Ireland),
Wrexham.

Servers are the
engines of
e-business}

50 ⠄

Every month 53,000 servers go online.

IBM

On the Web, everything depends on the server.

The Web is no longer simply a better way to publish and distribute information. It has become the conduit for the billions of information exchanges that make up business.

Universities are allowing candidates to earn their master's degrees online. Service industries are enabling customers to track packages from their own home or office PCs. Companies are taking their entire supply chains to the Web.

And on the Web, everything depends on the server. The ability of your customers to find you. The experience they have once they get there. The security of your transactions. The integrity of your data. In an e-business world, you're only as good as your servers.

They seem so anonymous. Working away quietly in the basement of your company's headquarters, down the hall in a windowless room, or stacked in a closet by the lift shaft. Most executives never even see these engines of e-business.

But just as the proliferation of affordable personal computers transformed the desktop, a new generation of fast and powerful servers are transforming the business world.



e-business is when you electronically connect everything that is critical to your business. Customers, employees, vendors, suppliers, can all be connected via intranets, extranets or over the Web. People and teams can work closely and more effectively, even if they've never met.

e-business is about transactions.
Every day, billions of transactions are conducted on IBM servers.



Lotus Domino runs on all IBM servers from Netfinity to S/390. On our AS/400, RS/6000 and S/390 servers, over 20,000 mail users can run Lotus Domino concurrently.

Servers matter

In this new transaction-based world, your server choice is critical. A server that isn't secure can permanently destroy your customers' confidence in you and your online place of business.

A server that can't scale up to increased traffic can end up turning profitable customers away.

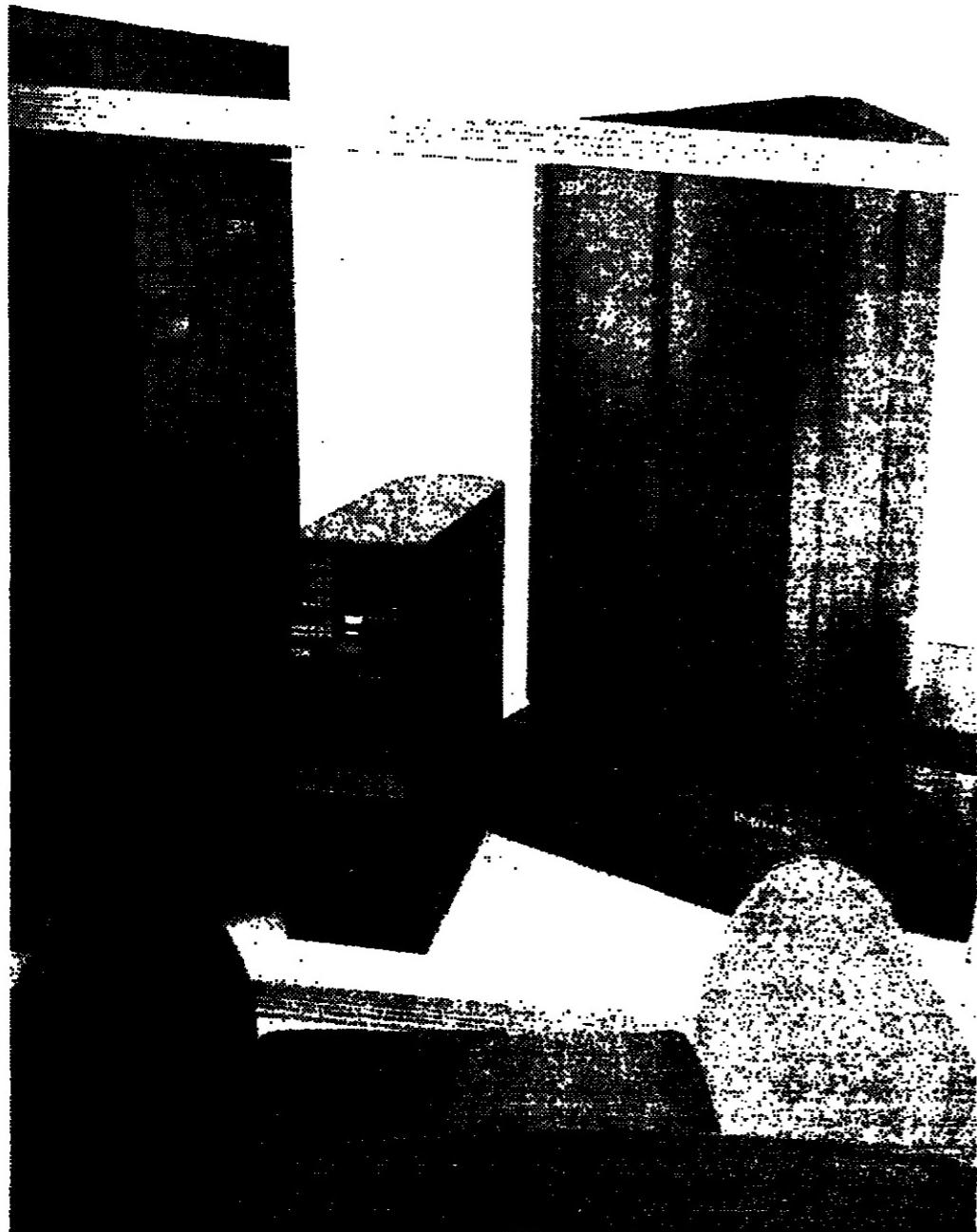
Powerful servers now cost as little as basic PCs did just a few short years ago. But the issues you face in buying them are radically different and much more complicated.

What operating system do you choose if you're just starting out in business and expect to rapidly expand?

What server lets you grow at a moment's notice?

Is the server solution for the human resources department of a multinational corporation the best one for a small consulting firm?

We can help you work through these issues because we've been solving them for thousands of businesses for decades.



IBM offers a range of servers for e-business for the smallest to the largest company, including affordable Windows NT, UNIX, mid-range and enterprise servers. All current IBM servers are Year 2000 ready.**



IBM. The world's largest server company

According to IDC, an independent research body, IBM is the world's largest server company.* We build and install more servers than anyone else, including Windows NT, UNIX, mid-range and enterprise servers. Through a combination of four ranges: the Netfinity, AS/400, RS/6000 and S/390 servers, we can deliver an e-business solution for your organisation. Our server family can handle anything from a lone server running single applications, such as e-mail or a specific database, to a server connecting tens of thousands of employees around the world.

Whether it's a single server or a combination working in harmony, there is no one solution, anyone who tells you there is, is trying to pull the wool over your eyes. The benefits and strengths of the server solution we offer you will depend on the practices and conventions of your business and the industry you work within.

On the Web, a server that crashes is a customer service problem.

The simple promise of the Web and e-business is that you can instantly reach millions of people, everywhere – anytime. Consider: as you're going to bed, billions of people around the world are just getting up. This is why doing business 24-hours a day, 7-days a week is so important.



All IBM Netfinity servers are built on Intel processors. The IBM Netfinity 7000 M10 is powered by the new Intel Pentium II Xeon processor, providing it with the leading benchmarks in its class.

An e-business never closes

IBM's reputation has always been built on reliability.

Our newest and most affordable servers, the Intel-based IBM Netfinity series, are establishing some of the most impressive numbers for reliability and availability in the Windows NT environment. Our Netfinity 3000 is allowing smaller businesses to offer customers and clients around-the-clock access to catalogues, inventories and information.

IBM's ultrascalable UNIX platform, the RS/6000, powers some of the most successful and bookmarked e-business sites.

AS/400's proven capabilities, along with the ability to run Java and NT, have made it one of the most popular mid-range servers.

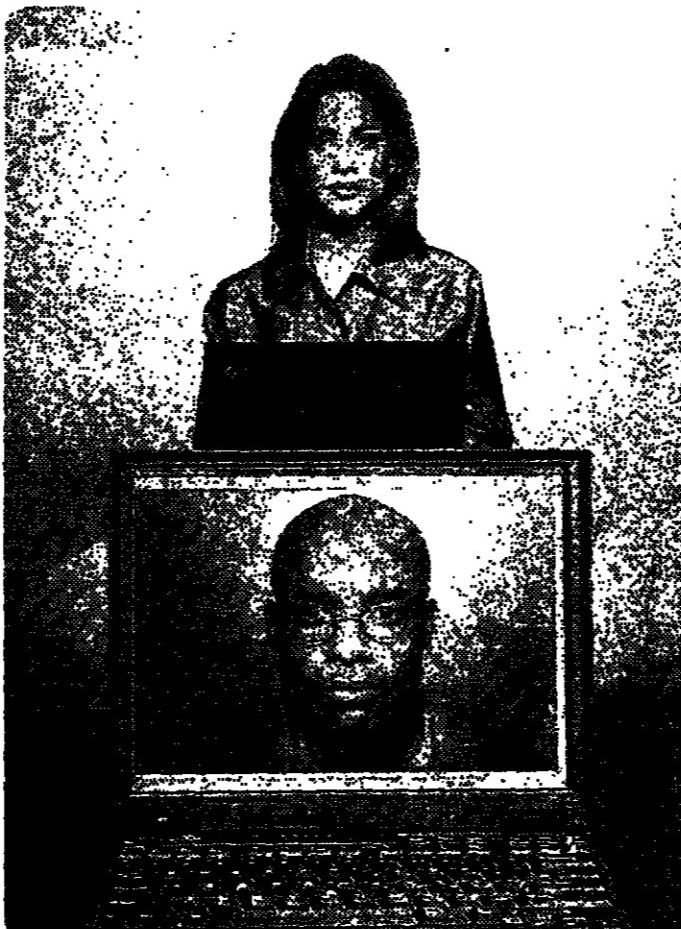


The UNIX-based IBM RS/6000 SP has powered some of the most heavily visited Web sites in history – including the Nagano Olympic Winter Games with 634,716,488 hits over 16 days.

The five nines

Several hardware companies are touting their long-term strategies for achieving 'Five Nines' (99.999% availability); IBM is already delivering.

Our latest S/390, the G5 Enterprise Server with Parallel Sysplex clustering technology, gives your business the closest thing to continuous computing. In fact, with just five minutes of estimated planned or unplanned downtime a year, it's no wonder many customer service based organisations rely on the S/390 as the centrepiece of their e-business activities.



99.999% reliability equals
5 minutes of downtime per year. 97% reliability
equals a loss of 263 hours per year.

On the Web, a server that isn't secure is a customer confidence problem.

Security is a recurring nightmare for the people charged with keeping your systems running and your data protected.

Security is the first thought when constructing an IBM server and is never bought from a third party.

IBM has spent over three decades securing the world's corporate networks ensuring a sound night's sleep for security experts everywhere.



Every Netfinity server includes a 3-year limited onsite warranty, 90-day ISID Start Up Support, and Lotus Domino at no extra cost. Attractive financing is available for 21 models.

Powerful, hacker-resistant servers

Your customers' data is vitally important to them. Protecting this data is your mission in life if you manage an e-business. And, because this data resides on your servers you need servers that are designed to keep intruders out and away from information. IBM servers are a hacker's worst nightmare.

IBM servers can be configured with security ranging from passwords to certificates on smart cards – you determine exactly who's on your network's guest list and who isn't.

Robust IBM encryption capability, available on every IBM server, helps businesses to get into e-business while minimising the risk of leaving themselves or their customers open to a breach in security. IBM e-business software such as NetCommerce, part of the WebSphere family allows nearly all organisations to take their core business to the Web, without creating an unsecured gateway to their private information.

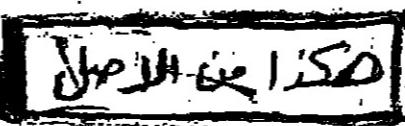
IBM helps major international airlines make their reservation systems available to flyers, allowing them to book flight reservations and purchase tickets from their databases. These are now sizeable businesses for those airlines.

The security of IBM servers provide network managers with the comfort of knowing they have the most complete protection available when their company conducts business across a network, through an extranet or on the Web.

Read on and learn more

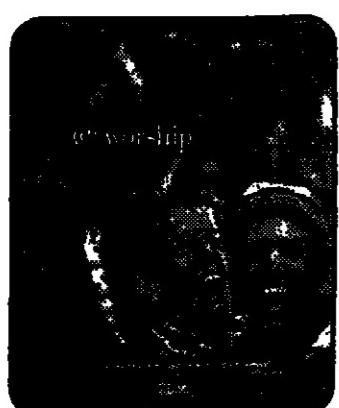


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On the Web, a server that isn't scalable is a business problem.

e-business works



Chelsea's stadium holds around 35,000 people but millions of fans can visit the online Megastore, and buy merchandise securely, thanks to IBM Net Commerce.



An IBM solution built with Lotus Notes lets Vespa reach millions of customers they wouldn't otherwise be able to reach, creating a 24-hour-a-day showroom.



Yamaha Global Jukebox Technology puts digital music on the Web. IBM technology puts it at your fingertips.

As a company's Web site becomes a primary source of interaction between the company and its customers, scalability and e-business growth becomes a major issue.

Scalability means providing a structure that can grow to support thousands of users at a reasonable cost.

IBM has been tackling this issue for years.

As with built-in reliability and security, IBM servers are designed to be scalable for enormous growth. Growth is what IBM servers are about. If you want your company to grow, e-business will make it happen.

Massively scalable Web sites

How big e-business will become is anyone's guess. Whatever happens there are massive opportunities and goals that e-business can help you identify and achieve.

A major European mail-order company chose an S/390 to host their Web site because of its superior scalability. The sheer power and size of S/390 allows for virtually unlimited growth.

This member of the server family also provides the high levels of security required by online marketers, banks, brokerages and other commercial institutions and businesses.

The RS/6000 SP server has powered some of the most heavily visited Web sites in history – including the Nagano Olympic Winter Games with 634,716,480 hits over 16 days, and the 1998 Wimbledon Championship Web site which handled 145,478 hits in a single minute.

The 1998 PGA TOUR Web site accommodated more information-hungry enthusiasts than anyone imagined. Handling more than 200 million page views, it attracted thousands of golf fans. The site, www.pgatour.com with real time scoring, exclusive stores and shopping is solely powered by IBM servers.

Every IBM server, from the smallest Netfinity to the most powerful IBM S/390, can handle the traffic, transactions and scalability that e-business demands.

fact e-business is more than buying books on the Web. 60% of online commerce is business-to-business.



On the Web, you need people with experience.

Connecting the systems you have to the Web requires knowledge of some complex and often disparate technologies. This is where IBM's expertise and long experience in integrating multiple architectures, software and operating systems can work to your advantage.

We have more knowledge of working with a mix of Windows NT, UNIX, mid-range and enterprise servers than any other company.

IBM Global Services, in conjunction with our many worldwide Business Partners, can help you assess, plan, design, implement and run your e-business. And IBM Global Financing can help you choose the most effective way to finance your e-business solution, with a payment plan customised to meet your needs.

IBM has helped companies of every size become e-businesses faster than these organisations ever thought was possible. IBM has helped small to medium-size businesses become e-businesses in a few weeks.

We've helped huge companies become fully-fledged e-businesses in a matter of a few short months.

To find out how our engines of e-business can improve your organisation visit www.ibm.com/servers/ebusiness/uk or call Edward Bailey any time between 8.30am and 6pm, Monday – Friday on 0800 400 000.

Our Web site will explain how our family of servers can help you turn your business into an e-business, or help your existing e-business operate more efficiently and more profitably.

www.ibm.com/servers/ebusiness/uk

Questions?

What e-business solutions would you like to know more about?

- How to establish a Web site.
- How to sell merchandise or services over the Web more effectively.
- How to make your supply chain more efficient and get products to market faster.
- How to use the Web to reach new markets.
- How to put your core business processes online (such as HR, competitive bidding, etc.).

What do you think you need to help you achieve your e-business goals?

- Strategic consulting. (How can I use e-business to help my business?)
- Technology consulting. (How do I combine new technology with my existing systems in a cost-efficient manner?)
- Expertise on how e-business can help me in my industry.
- Help integrating my networks so they run seamlessly.
- High-volume servers capable of handling millions of hits a day while conducting complex transactions.
- Help developing custom applications, intranets and extranets.
- Advice on security. (How do I protect my most vital systems while getting the right information out to the people who need it?)
- Advice on how e-business can help small businesses grow.



Kosovo dims Albright's star

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IT WAS symptomatic of the State Department's confusion over Kosovo that its public relations people were unable to say yesterday whether Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State, would be returning to the peace talks when they resume in three weeks. At the White House, officials said her schedule was not available.

Ms Albright's formerly bright star has been considerably dimmed by the broken promises of Rambouillet. She was photographed coming and going from the talks wearing an outfit that came low over her eyes. She was unable to pull rabbits out of it.

Back in Washington she could paint only a troubled picture of Kosovo's future. She told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the Serbs appeared to be using the pause in the talks to mass troops and armour for a spring offensive against the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. She issued a warning that Nato forces could intervene to block such a move. She promised to work hard to make it clear to the Serbs that new attacks would be a "grave mistake".

This was just the latest of Ms Albright's hawkish warnings and they are beginning to have a hollow ring. Giving warnings is a sad substitute for policy, said *The Washington Post*. Ever since the nonsense American diplomat, Richard Holbrooke, knocked

heads together at the Bosnian peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, the Clinton Administration has been dazzled by the prospects of a repeat performance.

Rambouillet was not Dayton, where Mr Holbrooke controlled the show and kept the opposing factions confined to a bleak American air force base. At the Kosovo talks, the French Government was in charge of the agenda and negotiations were shared among a diffuse group.

Also, Ms Albright is no Holbrooke. She is acutely aware that he will be remembered for ending the war in Bosnia and she would naturally like to match his achievement. Mr Holbrooke, however, is renowned for preparing himself for all options along with his bullying.

Ms Albright, by contrast, was sidewise by the refusal of the Albanians to play their part unless the Kosovo peace document guaranteed them a referendum on independence in three years' time. With the population 90 per cent ethnic Albanian the poll would be bound to succeed. Having put the prestige of her office on the line, Ms Albright was reduced to pleading.

The failure of the Rambouillet talks was further evidence that Ms Albright, and by extension the Clinton Administration, did not fully understand the fragmented Kosovo Albanians whom they were trying to win over. Also, unlike Dayton,

some officials at Rambouillet from both sides were able to nip home for consultations. They came back with their resistance to a deal stiffened.

Last night, the Administration's spin doctors were trying to put the best possible face on the messy ending in Rambouillet. One accomplishment, they said, had been simply getting the Albanians to sit down in the same room with the Serbs.

■ Prishtina: An Albanian delegate from the Rambouillet talks blamed hardliners within the Kosovo Liberation Army for scuppering a peace deal (Tom Walker writes). Venim Surroi, a moderate in the 16-member delegation, said Adam Demaci, the KLA's father figure, had wrecked the consensus among ethnic Albanians for an agreement. Mr Surroi said that the delegation would sign the deal when talks resume.

Fighting erupted yesterday between Yugoslav forces and Kosovo rebels in Lukos. 20 miles from Prishtina. Explosions were heard in the outskirts of the city.



Nato builds up Balkan force

A French soldier making an electronic record of an armoured personnel carrier in the Greek port of Salonicia yesterday. The French arrived in northern Greece to join up with the Nato force in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia today. British troops also began unloading tanks and other equipment in Salonicia yesterday to reinforce the Nato contingent which could take part in

policing any Kosovo peace pact. Nato's build-up is continuing for the exercise "Alexander the Great '99" which starts in northern Greece next week and will last about ten days (James Peiffer writes).

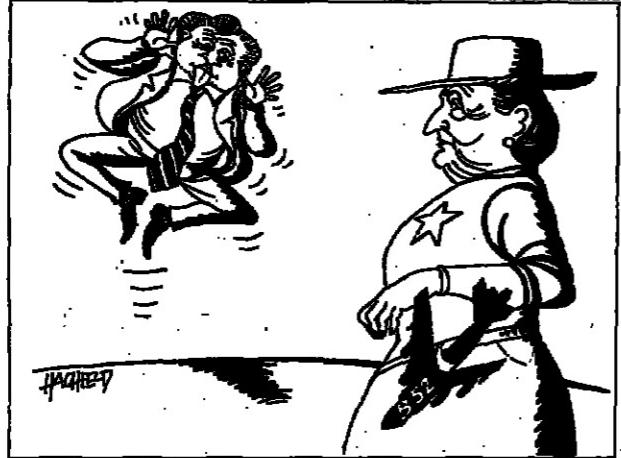
More than 2,000 US Marines and other support units are assembling

south of Salonicia to join the joint Nato-Greek force. The Nato exercise underlines the increasing commitment of the alliance to reinforce political stability in the key Vardar valley that dominates transport routes in the southern Balkans—the road and rail links between Yugoslavia, Mac-

donia and Greece. The railway north from Salonicia is being increasingly dominated by military transport.

Greeks are bemused, and not a little disturbed, by this dramatic reminder of their proximity to the Balkan crisis. Salonicia is as much a Balkan as a European city these days, in the wake of the huge influx of Serbs, Russians and Albanians over the past five years.

New Banking and Savings Interest Rates from Nationwide



Yugoslav President Milosevic mocks Ms Albright's threat of force in this view by Hachfeld in *Neues Deutschland*

WORLD IN BRIEF

Death toll rises in Indonesian riots

Jakarta: Thousands of people yesterday sought refuge in churches and mosques in the riot-torn eastern Indonesian city of Ambon, fleeing Muslim-Christian violence that has left at least 18 people dead in the past three days. The latest outbreak of rioting started after at least two houses owned by Christians were set on fire apparently by petrol bombs thrown by Muslims, reportedly self-inflicted.

"Stabbing of people, shooting and burning is still taking place and the city is still tense," a local journalist in Ambon said yesterday. At least 149 people have been killed in sectarian violence since mid-January in Ambon and on several neighbouring islands. (APF)

Anwar 'lucky to live'

Kuala Lumpur: A doctor has said Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's dismissed Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, was lucky to have survived a beating in police detention, and rejected a suggestion by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, that the injuries could have been self-inflicted. "It's fortunate this man did not succumb to death," Dr Halim Mansar, a forensic consultant, told a royal commission investigating injuries Mr Anwar sustained after his arrest in September. (Reuters)

Rebels 'seized children'

Freetown: About 2,000 children aged from five to 14 years have vanished since rebels invaded the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown on January 6, according to the Social Welfare Ministry. Officials fear that many of the youngsters have been abducted by the rebels when the latter were chased out by the West African intervention force, Econog, and then taken into the bush. Many of the children have already been traumatised by rebel atrocities, including gang rape, the officials said. (APF)

21 escape Crete jail

Iaklion: Police on Crete were searching for 21 escaped prisoners, shutting down all ports and airports on the island, authorities said. The men—20 Albanians and a Pole—were being held in a moderate-security prison pending trial for various offences. They allegedly jumped over a 16ft fence not under camera surveillance in a pre-dawn escape. Prison authorities raised the alarm when the men failed to appear for morning roll call. (AP)

Israel blocks extradition

Jerusalem: Israel's Supreme Court has ruled that a Jewish American teenager wanted for murder in the United States cannot be extradited because he holds Israeli citizenship by birth. In a decision likely to anger the US authorities, the court said Samuel Scheinbein, 18, should be tried in Israel rather than America for the murder in September 1997 in Maryland of a 19-year-old Hispanic acquaintance, Enrique Tello. (APF)

Noises off

Berlin: About 1,100 soldiers took over the Reichstag parliament building to check the acoustics. Officials renovating the neo-Renaissance palace in time for the Government's return to Berlin recruited the troops to check the sound system. When a new parliament building in Bonn opened in 1992, acoustic problems forced politicians to abandon the building for ten months. (AP)

FROM 1ST MARCH 1999 RATES FOR PERSONAL SAVERS												
Previous				New				Previous				
CashBuilder	AER	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.									
£50,000 +	4.15%	4.15%	3.32%	3.55%	3.55%	2.84%	2.85%	2.85%	2.85%	2.25%	2.25%	1.80%
£25,000 - £49,999	3.85%	3.85%	3.08%	3.25%	3.25%	2.60%	2.28%	2.28%	2.28%	1.25%	1.25%	1.00%
£10,000 - £24,999	3.45%	3.45%	2.76%	2.85%	2.85%	2.28%	2.12%	2.12%	2.12%	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%
£5,000 - £9,999	3.25%	3.25%	2.69%	2.65%	2.65%	2.12%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%
£1 - £4,999	3.10%	3.10%	2.48%	2.50%	2.50%	2.00%	1.90%	1.90%	1.90%	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%
£1 - £499	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%
CapitalBuilder												
£50,000 +	5.15%	5.15%	4.12%	4.55%	4.55%	3.44%	3.55%	3.55%	3.55%	5.50%	5.50%	5.20%
£25,000 - £49,999	4.85%	4.85%	3.88%	4.25%	4.25%	3.40%	3.20%	3.20%	3.20%	5.00%	5.00%	4.72%
£10,000 - £24,999	4.55%	4.55%	3.64%	4.00%	4.00%	3.20%	3.04%	3.04%	3.04%	5.00%	5.00%	4.64%
£1 - £9,999	4.40%	4.40%	3.52%	3.80%	3.80%	3.04%	3.04%	3.04%	3.04%	5.00%	5.00%	4.56%
MoneyBuilder												
£50,000 +	4.95%	4.95%	3.88%	4.33%	4.33%	3.40%	3.40%	3.40%	3.40%	5.50%	5.50%	5.20%
£25,000 - £49,999	4.65%	4.65%	3.64%	4.02%	4.02%	3.16%	3.16%	3.16%	3.16%	5.30%	5.30%	4.94%
£10,000 - £24,999	4.35%	4.35%	3.40%	3.76%	3.76%	2.96%	2.96%	2.96%	2.96%	5.00%	5.00%	4.64%
£1 - £9,999	4.18%	4.18%	3.28%	3.56%	3.56%	2.80%	2.80%	2.80%	2.80%	5.00%	5.00%	4.56%
The Smart Account												
£1 +	6.71%	6.71%	5.28%	6.30%	6.30%	4.96%	4.96%	4.96%	4.96%	6.60%	6.60%	5.28%
Smart 2 Save												
£1 +	6.71%	6.71%	5.28%	6.30%	6.30%	4.96%	4.96%	4.96%	4.96%	6.50%	6.50%	5.20%
TESSA												
£1 - £9,000	6.35%	6.35%	5.08%	5.85%	5.85%	4.68%	4.68%	4.68%	4.68%	6.49%	6.49%	5.04%

RATES FOR BUSINESS SAVERS												
Previous				New				Previous				
BusinessInvestor	AER	AER inc. bonuses	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	AER	AER inc. bonuses	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	AER	AER inc. bonuses	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£50,000 +	6.35%	6.77%	6.35%	5.08%	5.85%	6.27%	5.85%	4.68%	2.95%	6.20%	6.30%	4.36%
Bonus 60* Annual												
£100,000 +	5.60%	6.35%	6.35%	5.08%	5.00%	5.75%	5.75%	4.60%	5.41%	5.66%	5.55%	4.44%
£50,000 - £49,999	5.20%	5.95%	5.95%	4.76%	4.69%	5.35%	5.35%	4.28%	4.39%	5.14%	5.05%	4.04%
£25,000 - £49,999	4.90%	5.65%	5.65%	4.52%	4.35%							

Oil firms 'had role in Nigerian atrocities'

THE role of multinational oil companies which work with African military dictatorships is likely to come under the spotlight after Nigeria's transition to democracy and demands in the United States Congress that the US oil giant, Chevron, should be investigated over allegations that it helped the Nigerian security forces to massacre civilians.

Dennis Kucinich, a congressman, this week wrote to the House International Relations Committee alleging that Chevron had supplied helicopters to Nigerian forces to "bomb villages, massacre innocent civilians, and terrorise those protesting against the environmental degradation of the Niger delta".

The allegations came after the Washington-based Human Rights Watch published a 200-page report, *The Price of Oil*, alleging that Chevron — as well as Anglo-Dutch Shell, Agip, the Italian oil company, Elf-Aquitaine from France, and Mobil — had damaged the delta's environment, failed

Rights report puts Chevron in the spotlight as Nigeria votes for a leader, Sam Kiley writes in Lagos

to clean up slicks which had destroyed fishing areas and often connived with Nigeria's armed forces in the killing and detention of people.

The focus of attention on Nigeria, which is in transition from military rule to democracy and is scheduled to swear in a civilian President in May, is likely to be widened to include investigations on the role of oil companies elsewhere in West Africa.

Human rights groups, intelligence sources and diplomats said that the role of French oil companies in the civil war still raging in Congo-Brazzaville was under covert investigation. They said that Denis Sassou-Nguesso, who deposed Pascal Lissouba, had the backing of Elf-Aquitaine.

According to a French mercenary who flew for Mr Nguesso

so, the backing was with the knowledge and approval of the French authorities and Paris' overseas spy agency.

Chevron had won oil concessions from Mr Lissouba, who was deposed after bloody fighting in the former French colony which has access to some of the largest untapped off-shore oil reserves in the world. Human Rights Watch said were often ferried to the conflict areas on oil company helicopters and speedboats.

But the company did admit to Human Rights Watch that two unarmed protesters were killed by Nigerian security personnel flown on to Chevron's Parabe Platform to remove 200 people who had closed down production last May. One of those who were killed was a negotiator.

Censorship, page 48



Jews angered by arrests

Eight months in prison for his role in setting fire to an apartment inhabited by two Swiss women missionaries in the ultra-Orthodox quar-

ter of Mea Shearim four months ago. News of the conviction prompted some protesters to burn rubbish bins and block traffic. The two

other accused, one a minor, await trial. "This is worse than fascism and communism," said Mark Berg, 39, a protester. Ultra-Orthodox Jews have been angered by supreme court rulings challenging their rabbis. (AP)

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Israelis feud over 'shrine' to mass killer

Christopher Walker reports from Jerusalem on an extremist pilgrimage site

AN UNSEEMLY row over the grave of a Jewish settler, Baruch Goldstein, erupted yesterday, the fifth anniversary of the day he massacred 29 Palestinians in the West Bank city of Hebron, holy to Muslims and Jews.

The elaborate grave at the entrance to Kiryat Arba, a settlement overlooking Hebron where the New York-born Goldstein lived, and the area around it, have become a macabre place of pilgrimage for Jewish extremists who regard the late doctor as a hero.

Yesterday Israeli police prevented peace activists from protesting at the grave, which is still adorned with the words "martyr" and "holy", despite repeated legal attempts to have them removed and promises by the Israeli Army that the grotesque shrine at the grave would be dealt with.

"We were stopped by police and some of us — I would say between ten and 15 — were even detained," said Irene Steinfeld, a Peace Now activist. "We wanted to protest at Goldstein's tomb to show our dismay that it still stands as a shrine five years after the massacre. But we were met by a large police force, some of whom pushed and shoved us."

Last June Israel's parliament passed legislation, popularly known as the Goldstein Law, banning monuments in remembrance of perpetrators of "terror". But fear of a violent backlash by ultra-nationalist Jews has prevented the army from taking action.

In an attempt to discourage extremists making pilgrim-

ages to the site, the army ordered the two most offending words removed. But the Supreme Court in Jerusalem issued a temporary injunction in December against the changes after Goldstein's father petitioned the court.

On Monday, the court asked a retired judge to mediate. Moshe Goral, a court spokesman, said such arbitration was not unusual.

Ran Cohen, a left-wing Israeli politician, then attacked the court for failing to rule on the matter. "Each week people are going there to get a lesson in how to become a Jewish terrorist," he said.

Goldstein was beaten to death by Muslim worshippers who survived his shooting spree in the holy Tomb of the Patriarchs, known to the Islamic world as the Ibrahim mosque. His attack took place during dawn prayers on February 25, 1994.

Three years later Israel handed over 80 per cent of Hebron to Palestinian self-rule. About 400 militant Jewish settlers and 150 seminary students have remained in the Israeli-controlled sector where they live surrounded by 150,000 hostile Arabs.

British lead hunt for peace in Congo

**FROM JAN RAATH
IN HARARE**

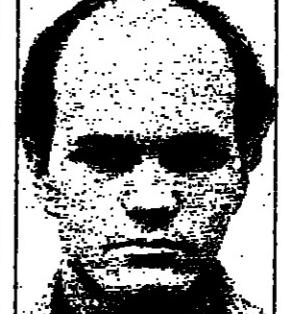
BRITAIN appears to have taken the lead in the first major international diplomatic initiative for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo that will involve the European Union and the United Nations.

Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister, in Harare on a shuttle around the nine countries involved in the war and in mediation efforts, said here yesterday that the conflict was now "of continental and global importance".

He said that Britain had a clear role to play in mobilising the international community in the search for peace in the seven-month war and to provide practical help for a ceasefire and its aftermath.

After two hours of talks with President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, who is regarded as President Kabila of the Congo's closest ally, Mr Lloyd questioned whether "the political will and the urgency exists to put an end to the conflict".

Mr Lloyd also raised with Mr Mugabe Britain's concern over the illegal detention and the torture of two journalists held by military authorities last month.



Karl LaGrand: he expressed remorse

Murderer dies by injection

Phoenix A German-born convicted killer was executed by lethal injection yesterday, despite German government protests.

Officials said that Karl LaGrand, 36, received a lethal injection in the early hours at the state prison complex at Florence, Arizona, about 60 miles southeast of Phoenix. He was pronounced dead four minutes later.

Witnesses said that LaGrand expressed remorse to the family of a bank manager whom he and his brother Walter murdered in 1982. Walter LaGrand, 37, is to be executed next Wednesday. (Reuters)



Starting again: growing weary of my son's little joke about "Who is that lady who sometimes comes in to say goodnight to me?". I started working from home. At this point things began to go wrong. My suit looked absurd on the school run

There was a time when clothes, in the days before I started to write about them, never gave me a moment's anxiety. In those days I had a job that took me to an office five days a week and I knew exactly what to wear. For weekdays I had a suit by Marella, in a beautiful black and white Donegal tweed. For weekends I had a pair of D&G hipster jeans and a series of leather jackets and little T-shirts. I never had to think for more than 30 seconds about what I should be wearing.

Time passed and eventually, growing weary of my son's little joke about "Who is that lady who sometimes comes in to say goodnight to me?", I started working from home. At this point things began to go wrong. My suit looked absurd on the school run

'I haven't a clue what to wear now I work at home'

to say goodnight to me?" I started working from home. At this point things began to go wrong. Not only did I miss the office jokes and gossip, but I hadn't a clue what to wear. My suit looked absurd on the school run, but putting on my weekend jeans gave me the disconcerting impression that I wasn't really at work at all. Eventually, I fell back on a

sort of subfusc — a pair of black jodhpurs and an ancient Conran sweater, upgraded to Caroline Charles's black satin pants and an Amanda Wakeley sweater when I have to go out. It is a comfortable arrangement, but it does not give me the solid sense of who I am that my Donegal tweed used to bestow.

My problem is not a short-

age of clothes. If you looked in my wardrobe you might think that it was the result of a clothes-swapping session between the late Diana Vreeland and Dame Iris Murdoch — lichenous tweed skirts hanging next to amethyst satin embroidered Chinese jackets; smudgy corduroy breeches clasped in the arms of a scarlet suede jacket by Jasper

Conran. When I search through the rails, it seems to me that it might be best to start again with some grown-up, clean-lined clothes with just enough edge to make them interesting.

So I rang the personal shopping managers of three big London stores. I wanted a head-to-toe wardrobe to take me from now into the summer. It had to be crisp enough for work, but relaxed enough for the school run. And I didn't want to spend more than £1,000 (a figure that caused me some anxiety since I had never encountered a personal shopper before and imagined them to be a fearfully grand breed).

As I waited for Gabriella Di Natale in Selfridges' personal shopping department, my confidence was not increased by the sight of a framed Christmas card ("With love from Diana, Princess of Wales. Good grief! Was Gabriella really going to be able to bend her mind to my rather more modest needs? A moment later she appeared, very soigné in black trousers and mushroom jacket, assuring me earnestly that she will work to any budget, however small. Gabriella is very nice and charmingly unpretentious about fashion. Her background is in languages — she is half-Italian, one of four sisters, all more interested in clothes than she was. Her family, she says, thinks it a hoot that she has ended up advising people on clothes.

Our first task was to fit in a form with my preferences of style and colour. Then she took a Polaroid for her records and set off to trawl the shop floor for what I had decided I needed most — a versatile coat, like a pea jacket, something that would do for town or country, and a pair of flat boots.

I was left behind with a cafetière of excellent coffee, a plate of fancy biscuits and a heap of glossy magazines, through which I flicked quickly, not quite able to get used to the idea of shopping by proxy.

Ten minutes later she reappeared with a pile of boxes and an armful of coats, and we moved to the dressing room, soothingly decorated in mag-

polia and blond wood, with bottled water, tissues and a teddy bear cushion. It was a tricky time of year — the fag end of the winter sale shading into the beginning of the summer stock, but one of the pairs of boots was a hit: a Robert Clergerie design in glossy black calf, reduced from an eye-watering £355 to £142.

The coats were more difficult. There were masses of them, by Nicole Farhi, John Rocha, Kenzo et al. in a dizzying variety of styles and colours, including one by Guy Laroche in a sort of brilliant green Astroutof, but nothing that quite corresponded to what I had in mind. A soft green and black tweed redingote by Strenesse was so lovely.

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The story of the story of the film

If you go out tonight to watch *You've Got Mail*, and if you peer carefully at the credits, you'll notice that by the time you leave the cinema all the restaurants have shut and the babysitter's bill has risen by £15. This is because movie credits acknowledging everyone involved in the simplest project have grown far too long — a conclusion I reached after having a conversation with my friend William in New York last week, and which I fleshed out during my British Airways flight home as (dressed in Brooks Bros shirt, Paul Smith jacket) I sipped a Bell's whisky served by the cabin stewardess, Julie.

At one time credits were so brief that the two stars of a movie might seek legal arbitration over whose name should appear first. But now Hollywood is having to settle disputes between the most incidental people on the set (First gofer: "I fetched more coffees." Second gofer: "Yeah, but you always skimped on the Donuts, and my billing should reflect that").

The purpose of lengthy credits must be that they enable directors to judge the success of their latest movie with test audiences. If the audience heads for the exits as soon as the words "The End" come on screen, they thought the film stank. If they stay for the names of the supporting actors, they liked it. If they're still in their seats when it says "Miss Palrow's nail varnish supplied by . . ." they want to invest in your next movie. But how have we let ourselves become used as emotional barometers for Hollywood producers?

Mary Pickford — in the first incident of a dispute over screen billing reaching a courtroom — petitioned to have her name put on the screen after years of appearing simply as "Little Mary". The opening credits of *Casablanca* acknowledged the actors, the producer, the director; a dialogue director, a make-up artist, orchestral arrangements; in just over a minute it's all over. It finishes with just "The End".

Then things started getting out of hand. Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* credited nearly 800 different people, organisations and places — including "The Island And People Of Kama", Kama being the Hawaiian island where the film was partly shot, but where the local lawyers weren't savvy enough in the ways of Hollywood to insist that — as a mark of respect for the natural beauty of this remote island — a full chemical breakdown of Kama's soil structure also be included in the film's closing acknowledgements.

Those moviegoers who felt unable to leave their seats at the end of *Titanic* as they tried to solve the mystery that had transfixed all who saw the movie — ie, had Kate Winslet put on weight or not? — could chew over this teasing conundrum through seven minutes of screen credits: these listed hundreds of people, including an etiquette coach, the Mexican Minister of



**MAN
ON THE SIDE**

JOE JOSEPH

Tourism, the London jeweller Asprey, a children's guardian, a drapes master, a Slovakan three-year-old boy, a first-class husband, and steward No. 4 (no, not him! You're thinking of steward No. 3. There's no point if you are not going to concentrate).

Directors have grown smart enough to realise that audiences can stomach only so much, and no longer want to wait to see who sang a particular song on the soundtrack if it means having also to scroll through all 52 clauses and sub-clauses of that band's recording contract with Sony. That's why, in Peter and Bobby Farrelly's film *There's Something About Mary*, the credits are interleaved with cut-takes. Jackie Chan, who has just brought out his latest film, *Kung Fu Hustle*, keeps us seated by showing the credits against a backdrop of stunts that went amazingly wrong. For *A Bug's Life*, Disney created special animated cut-takes to leave the credits.

But audiences have become too sophisticated even for this. We need more powerful incentives to keep us glued than clips from the cutting-room floor. In *Shakespeare In Love*, the credits should include information such as Gwyneth Paltrow's home phone number, or details of any film-set romances/tiffs. Five minutes into the credits of *Titanic* we deserved a line telling us, "No, it's just the camera that makes her look plump".

And why limit it to films? Government statements could carry similar stabs to keep us glued ("Yes, Jack Straw's new policy is the one he scoffed at when the Tories put it forward in 1995").

Before I go could I just thank the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for its co-operation in providing production facilities for this article. To Klix Vending Services for coffee. There was no best buy. The article was printed in Times Romanvision.

Sadly, premature babies often die, as Richard Miles discovered when he lost his son

We do not know what to say as we stand beside his tiny grave

WHEN your child dies it is natural to want to blame someone. The feelings of the parents whose prematurely born babies died during trials of a new type of ventilator at a North Staffordshire hospital are quite understandable.

The harsh truth, however, is that a significant number of premature babies do die despite the best efforts of the medical staff. I know because it happened to us. Our son, Oliver, died last November after entering this world three-and-a-half months too early.

Before the huge advances of medical technology in the 20th century, women routinely lost their children, many prematurely. Even today, five in 100 babies are born before gestation is complete. Most survive but many do not.

Doctors still lack an adequate explanation for premature births. Roughly half of such cases can be attributed to three main causes: alcoholism or drug addiction of the mother, or the conception of twins.

In our case, none of these conditions applied. Four months after Oliver's birth, the doctors have been unable to give us a reason for his premature arrival. My wife, Jacqui, had developed an infection in her womb, and when that happens the body's natural defence system urges the expulsion of the unborn child.

It was every expectant parent's worst nightmare. I was in the office when the panicked phone call came through: Jacqui's waters had broken outside Great Portland Street Tube station in London. The due date was not until late February.

Luckily, Jacqui was with a friend, who took her by taxi to University College Hospital, Central London. The doctors confirmed that her waters had broken, but said that labour had not yet begun. If she could just hold off for even 12 hours, it would give the baby a greater chance of survival.

Jacqui struggled valiantly for almost 48 hours, allowing the doctors to give her two doses of steroids to aid the development of the child's lungs. The odds were not good: 24 weeks was the "cusp of viability", said the consultant. At this point of development, only four in ten babies survive the delivery.

By late afternoon of the second day, Jacqui had entered labour. Unfortunately, her temperature rocketed and she contracted a raging fever. We had to open the windows and brandish electric fans to bring her temperature down to a reasonable level. In the corridor, the midwife told me the complications meant that the baby would not live.

Nevertheless, my wife had to go through the labour and at 9.26pm on November 1 — rather spookily, my own birthday and within 30 minutes of the time of my delivery — Oliver was born. Although he was grey, limp, voiceless and weighed less than a bag of sugar, the paediatricians succeeded in reviv-

ing our son. He was transferred to intensive care.

There, under ultraviolet lights and accompanied by the airline "ping" of the computers, I had the first real opportunity to see my son. At 24 weeks a baby's skin is not fully formed, so the nurses had stretched a plastic tent over Oliver to retain the moisture. But beneath the plastic was a perfectly formed, divine-looking little boy.

Then began the rollercoaster ride of our lives: would Oliver's heart and lungs be strong enough to keep him alive? We forced ourselves to view each successive hour as a bonus — after all, no one had expected him to make it through the delivery — while deep down we were willing him, praying for him to survive this ordeal so that he might stay with us.

A great many children born so prematurely die within 48 hours of delivery. Some do not survive the move downstairs to University College Hospital's neonatal unit, one of the best, if not the best, in the UK. Their hearts fail or, more commonly, their lungs pack up, even with the best ventilator.

Oliver survived this initial period

— both his heart and lungs were strong — but tests revealed that he had suffered acute brain damage, either during his time in the womb or during delivery. As the days passed, the nature of this damage became apparent and our joy at his survival evaporated.

Even a baby who stays in the womb for the whole nine months does not have a fully developed brain: it takes another 12 months to

grow and that he had contracted NEC (necrotising enterocolitis), a potentially fatal condition and a common killer of premature babies. In these circumstances, the doctors asked us to think carefully about whether it was right to keep Oliver alive by artificial means. In their opinion, the kindest act would be to let him go.

After much soul-searching, we decided that the doctors were right. My greatest fear was that Oliver would have a healthy mind trapped in a useless body. In any event, as the post-mortem examination would later show, our boy would almost certainly have died from the bowel condition.

We had him christened on the ward and then, on the following Sunday, almost seven days after he came into this world, the medical staff unplugged Oliver from the life-support machinery. We held him — our first real opportunity to do so without the encumbrance of the ventilator — while he died.

Neither Jacqui nor I recall being asked to sign a consent form for any of Oliver's treatments, although a researcher gently asked if she might monitor his brain patterns for a study. We agreed. Frankly, we would have leapt at any

treatment suggested by the doctors if they thought that it would improve Oliver's chances of survival.

As for the medical staff, both doctors and nurses were superb, doing their utmost for Oliver while offering us tremendous emotional support. They were visibly upset by his death; one or two were in tears as we said our last goodbyes.

No one really knew what to say to us. Many people lacked the requisite language. While politics, religion and sex are now acceptable topics of conversation, infant mortality is strictly off-limits, the last conversational taboo.

Some people said "never mind, we'll have other children". The point was that we wanted this child. Others decided to deal with us as if nothing had happened.

There were exceptions. Our best friends, Clare and Ant, were pillars of strength throughout the ordeal, often bedding down in the hospital to be with us. At work, our colleagues were also very supportive and understanding, particularly Jacqui's associates. Many were so moved that they made charitable donations to the neonatal unit. The best simply said "we are thinking of you".

We were both surprised, however, to learn just how many other people had experienced a similar tragedy. The director of a City public relations agency confided to me that he had lost his first child in similar circumstances. My father received letters of condolence from colleagues who had been through a similar ordeal.

We have found ourselves members of a club to which no one willingly signs up, but there is help out there. A small national charity known as SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society) runs a counselling and support service for bereaved parents. It is particularly interested in hearing from fathers whose babies have died or were stillborn.

More disturbingly, much of the research carried out by neonatal units is funded from charitable donations, rather than from the Government. As doctors admit, they still do not know enough about newborn babies. The nursing crisis has also led to a shortage of intensive-care beds for babies who are born prematurely.

If things had gone to plan, Oliver would have been born about now. Instead he lies under a yew tree in a North London cemetery, surrounded by other unfortunate children. We feel guilty because we do not visit him regularly. We know of other parents who go once a week. But the truth is that we do not know what to say when we stand beside his tiny grave, and it is just too painful.

Instead, the handful of pictures we have of Oliver are proudly displayed around our flat. Some people might think we are strange, even morbid, to do so, but he was and always will be our first child and our first son. As the Ancient Romans believed: if my name is on someone's lips, I am still alive.

BEVERLY BROWN

The loss of an infant is every expectant parent's nightmare. Doctors admit they know too little about newborn babies

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Young, free and anti-single currency

You can be pro-European and anti-EMU — it's the third way

The first and last time that I knocked on doors and pushed leaflets through letterboxes for a political cause was in 1975. The occasion was the referendum on Europe and, as a fervent pro-European teenager, I was campaigning for Britain to stay in the Common Market. Four years later, in the 1979 election, I despised both main parties with equal vigour, so did not feel inclined to hit the streets. Since then, as a journalist, I have always felt my job was to comment on political campaigns, not join them.

So why, on Monday, will I be sharing a platform with David Owen and many others who fought for a "yes" vote in 1975, to argue for Britain to stay out of the euro? Partly because the issue is so important that I feel a duty to do something. But also because, as someone who thinks of herself as moderate, reasonably thoughtful, and pro-European, I am fed up with EMU opponents being caricatured as swivel-eyed xenophobes.

Only this week, Tony Blair mocked the "Thatcher-Portillo-Benn axis" of those who don't believe Britain should join the single currency. Ideologically, I have as little in common with those three as he has; and so do the other members of the group that we are launching. We are all pro-European; none of us is on the far Right and, apart from the odd "wet" Tory, the rest of us are apolitical, centrist or centre-left. We are modern and internationalist, forward-looking and constructive about the EU. We don't care whose face is on our banknotes. But we are all intellectually very dubious about the case for EMU membership.

Initially I supported Britain's membership of the ERM. Like many pro-Europeans, I had not thought very hard about the consequences, but it looked as if we might end up with lower interest rates and lower inflation. More important, I looked at who was against membership and who was for, and knew which club I instinctively wanted to join. Only when the fatal consequences of German unification became clear — pushing up interest rates and plunging Britain into a deep recession — did I realise how damaging such a system was destined to be.

It should, of course, have realised earlier. Indeed, I did start to have theoretical reservations soon after we joined. But it took some time for the intellectual doubts to overcome the emotional enthusiasm. If I was pro-EMU, how could I be anti-EMU?

This question torments Mr Blair. He cannot reconcile his pro-European instincts with a rational scepticism about the wisdom of trying to tie divergent economies together. And explains the superficial enthusiasm of many others in the Centre and Centre-Left of politics. They don't want to be regarded as the kind of people who would object to EMU.

But it is only in politics that such a problem arises. In journalism, for instance, there are many commentators and economics editors who share my view: my colleagues Ana-



Mary Ann Sieghart



Welcome to Britain's latest nationalised industry. It was once called British Rail. It is now the Strategic Rail Authority. Same difference. Tony Blair, speaking at yesterday's rail "summit" in London, tried calling it the Third Way, a people's partnership, a deeply moving on-time experience. But we knew what he was about. Introducing the SRA's new boss, Sir Alastair Morton, to a battery of ministers, civil servants, regulators, consultants, lobbyists and even a few railwaymen, he could not resist giving a glimpse of the new rail order. It was a land of lower fares, higher investment, more customer care and better punctuality. He never mentioned profit. Baroness Thatcher always said that BR was a privatisation too far. Mr Blair agrees. BR is dead: long live BR.

After a burst of post-privatisation energy, helped by the boom, Britain's new railway has hit desperate trouble. Rail management is an art as well as a science, the art of the Great Excuse. After the wrong sort of leaves and the wrong sort of snow, benighted passengers are now being offered "the wrong sort of privatisation" to excuse a declining quality of service. For once the excuse is just. The sort of privatisation invented by John Major's Government, against the advice of every expert, has been an industrial fiasco. Known to aficionados as the Robson-Blackwell plan, after the two officials who forced it through, it has been the greatest failure of the privatisation era.

Administering the bureaucratised layers of prices, contracts and regulations has cost a fortune and offered managers, and station staff, every opportunity to pass the buck to others. The chief purpose was to strengthen Treasury control over subsidy. It did. But the price was the Treasury paying the private sector twice what it was paying BR, and for roughly the same level of service. Anywhere but in Whitehall such a mess would have been cause for a public inquiry and heads rolling. Yesterday's summit was an ill-conceived but frantic rescue bid. It had Mr Blair and John Prescott firmly in the driving cab and Sir Alastair in the brake van.

Wherever old BR hands gather these days, the conversation turns to the same theme: what a glorious railway they would now be running, given the current level of subsidy. booming revenue and

The Government's need to rig the railways will cost us all dear

freedom to plan long-term. Some of this may be rosy-tinted spectacles. But everything the critics predicted about "the wrong sort of privatisation" has come true. By forcing train operators to be short-term *rentiers* — not owning trains, stations, track, anything — the Treasury privatisation plan stripped them of any long-term quality incentive. Everyone predicted that the new companies would simply cut costs, lay off staff, raise fares and "sweat the franchise". With no guarantee beyond seven years, they would be commercially negligent to do otherwise. Likewise with Railtrack, the infrastructure firm. It was constituted to have every interest in minimising investment and none in boosting capacity. It is a private firm with shareholders. Railtrack's true customer is not the passenger, nor even 25 train firms, but the regulator who fixes its charges and thus its profit.

The new rail bosses truly did what was expected: they repainted their trains, laid off drivers, raised fares and cut corners. Service quality declined, but since trains are quasi-monopolies whose revenue depends on the state of the economy, nobody has gone bankrupt. As a result, the final prediction has come true. Ministers have found the whole business intolerable. They have leant on the regulators, bullied the companies and, as of yesterday, indicated that they would effectively renege on the franchise contracts. Mr Prescott has already intervened in matters as diverse as holiday fares, punctuality, phone-book fees, staff recruitment and breakfast prices. This month the central dogma of rail privatisation, "vertical separation", cracked when Railtrack entered a commercial partnership with Virgin on the West Coast main line.

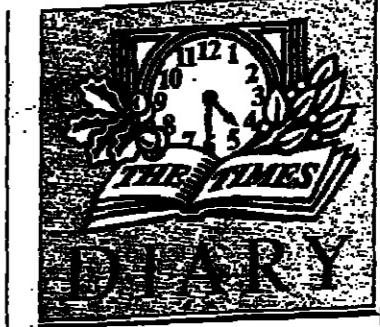
Already Mr Prescott has begun to treat Railtrack as a public corpor-

ation, indeed as a government agency. He pesters it on investment. He has won for it a Treasury guarantee, so it can help him to rescue the Channel Tunnel link. More guarantees will be needed if it has to bail out the now chaotic London Underground privatisation. Yesterday the company became the effective cornerstone of Mr Prescott's "new railway architecture". The old franchises are now virtually dead. Mr Blair in his speech warned the companies not to think that "we have to wait until the franchises come to an end" to take action on performance. Mr Prescott added that Sir Alastair would be given powers to act as "an operator of last resort" if the private firms refused to do as they were told.

There is to be that old planner's standby, a railway ten-year plan. As a first step, the railway would get 800 new drivers, 500 new vehicles, a "joint hit squad" for 50 blackspots, and demands on timetabling, ticketing and passenger information. Negotiations on new franchises will begin at once. In other words, the railway operating companies are now mere management subcontractors to Sir Alastair. Their performance and their profit depend on continuing negotiations with a government agency, with minute performance indicators ruling their every step. Such contracts are really no different from those which BR's operating divisions had with the BR board under nationalisation. They just cream off more of the surplus for private shareholders. Such is neo-nationalisation.

The Blairstine euphemism for neonationalisation is partnership. But partnership existed under the old nationalisation. It was called an arm's length relationship between ministers and boards. Such a relationship was far more distant than that suggested by Mr Prescott

comment@the-times.co.uk



Tatton corner

STROKE play on the wrong side of the wicket is the latest obsession of Christine Hamilton: her "eagerly awaited" novel will be replete with gay sex, "based on a friend". As it cannot be her manly hubby, Neil, who is it? "It will be quite obvious when it comes out," she promises.

"Gaffa" mates include Harvey Proctor (a commercial shirt-seller as owner of a men's retailer) and Michael Brown, another confirmed ex-Tory MP and fellow alumnus of the No Turning Back Group.

Tatton set to wave farewell to Martin Bell, will be agog. Tory Central Office is determined to vet candidates to avoid a "rogue" local standing — shorthand, I am told, for a step-in for Sebastian Coe. Christine has told chums she will fight Seb — unless Michael Portillo, another Hamilton chum, stands. Applications will be opened this weekend.

William Hague wants the parliamentary future of Coe — his chief of staff — sorted out soon, but, I learn, the old athlete's insistence on living in Surrey rather than Tatton has gone down like a stale chip butty.

WHILE *Donatella Versace* asks Boy George to provide the funky sounds at her fashion show, a newcomer to the rag trade has relied on ladies of the Corston Women's Institute. As models stumbled down the catwalk at London Fashion Week (below), Russell Sage played Jerusalem



sung by his local WI. "We like to get stuck into all sorts of things," says Liz McDonald of the WI near Bath. "It's not all jam-making."

■ HOW not to run a party by Harvey Nichols. Guests at London Fashion Week were locked out as the joint was "not ready", so transvestites roamed Sloane Street. Then designers were left waiting for lifts while a flunkey worried if "Bryan Ferry plus one" was arriving.

Huge black men clad in loin cloths gyrated, exposing that which, in recent years, they have mostly kept covered. Deadbeats boasted how they made London cool. As a tottering model said: "I've seen better organisation in Naples and had more fun in Warsaw."

SHIRLEY MACLAINE has a new chum: Mikhail Gorbachev, with whom she chatted at the Kremlin's gala opening of *The Barber of Siberia*. The slushy tale attracted Yevgeni Primakov, who faces a less romantic prospect — Robin Cook when he pops over to Moscow next



month. The Foreign Secretary will bear gifts: eight specially bound volumes of *Fuskin's notebooks*, prepared by the Prince of Wales.

■ ETON is encouraging its pupils to become rock stars — as long as they do not make too much noise. "Bands can make as much noise as they like without disturbing anyone," says Ralph Allwood, the school's director of music, commenting on its new rock studio and drum room. "But we don't want the boys to damage their hearing by playing too loud, so the studio is equipped with a monitor which cuts out if the decibels go stratospheric." Bad luck Prince William.

PARANOIA on the sad game show circuit. After my friend Matthew Paris showed that Vanessa and Courtenay are foisted (question: so why are they still so bad?) other programmes are running scared of our "outing" specialist. He has been told that he is no longer required by Channel 4 if I ruled the world. Say producers: "We just er, double booked and, um, ummmed a woman."

JASPER GERARD

'Nonsense can be poetry — poetry is what survives the crying, even if only one person thinks it poetic'

Philip Howard



What is poetry, pray? Well, as the schoolboy wrote, poetry is the stuff that poets write. And as Sterne put it in *Tristram Shandy*, "Sir, what is poetry?" "Why, Sir, it is much easier to say what it is not. We all know what light is; but it is not easy to tell what it is." The Times Literary Supplement is revisiting this old enigma of the definition of poetry. A correspondent from the poetical place name of Java Barat, Indonesia, has written asserting that of the 13 objects published in the TLS as "poems" since he became a subscriber, in his opinion five qualify as poems, five do not, and three are borderline.

He asserts: "One prime qualification of a poem has to be, doesn't it, that it makes some sense?" And as an example of what he counts as poetry, he cites the magical line, "The first time ever I saw your face I thought the

sun rose in your eyes." In spite of diligent search, I have been unable to locate his spell.

Poetry is Protean. Like Proteus, the Old Man of the Sea, it comes in all shapes and sizes. One man's metre is another man's Post-Modernism. There is colour poetry which paints for the inward eye. "Now sleeps the crimson petal, now the white . . ." Then there is the poetry of music without meaning, as with much of Swinburne. "Pale beyond porch and portal/ Crown'd with calyx leaves she stands . . ." Distinguish between "porch" and "portal"; writing on only one side of the paper at a time, and explain what difference it would make if she were crowned with aged leaves.

Poets come metaphysical and intellectual, like Donne and Pope. Pope attacked the nonsense of "inferior" poets in *The Dunciad*. And poets such as Keats and Tennyson come romantic and musical, loved more for the beauty of their language than the depth of their thought. But to say that a poem must make some sense is to ignore the peculiarly English genre of nonsense poetry. In Lewis Carroll's logical nonsense in such poems as *Jabberwocky*, and in Edward Lear's "Yonghy-Bonghy-Bo" and *The Popple Who Has No Toes*, sadness just below the surface of the nonsense. The genre was practised by those who were not just professional nonsense writers.

Dr Johnson, with skittishness unexpected by those who think of Sam only as the Great Pomposo of Literature, wrote it: "I put my hat upon my head/ And walk'd

into the Strand/ And there I met another man/ Whose hat was in his hand." Ezra Pound's translation of a fragment of Greek love poetry: "Spring . . . Too long . . . Gongula" (that's it) leaves something to the imagination. T.S. Eliot: "O the moon shines bright on Mrs Porter/ And on her daughter/ They wash their feet in soda water . . . and W.H. Auden: "England our cow! Once was a lady — she is now!" did it. But their eminently "nonsense" is as poetic as Ecclesiastes, "Over ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken."

James Joyce is (in part) a poet of nonsense. "Under her brella mid piddle med puddle she ninnynoos nannynoos nancing by." Young girl with an umbrella tripping along a wet road? The Liffey (unda) at Dublin rippling down to the sea? Those and several other ambiguities characterise his many layered work.

In a brilliant lecture on Tuesday, Pat Easterling, Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, was wondering why we had taken on the genre of ancient tragedy, but abandoned its companion of satyric drama. Perhaps the nonsense of poetic fools, such as the tragic clown in Lear, is an echo down the millennia of those grotesque old dramas, heightening the tragedy by juxtaposing absurdity.

Some nonsense has always been poetry. Perhaps the increasing cult of the absurd can be put down to our existential angst and loss of sense of man's purpose in the Universe. There is an alarm-

ing distrust of the rational, ie, in the popularity of baty superstitions to do with food, health and politics. Note the sublime nonsense of e.e. cummings, Monty Python, Jacques Tati and Jonsone. Remember how Beau-marchais caught the paradox of life in *The Barber of Seville*: "Je me presse de dire de tout, de peur d'être obligé d'en pleurer." I make myself laugh at everything for fear of having to cry about it. Compare that other French nonsense rime, "One must laugh before one is happy, for fear of dying without ever having laughed."

Nonsense can be poetry. "When I was but thirteen or so I went into a Golden Land! Chumbraze Cotopaxi Took me by the hand . . ." But it also behaves us to cry "nonsense" when we see it. Poetry is what survives the crying, even if only one person thinks it poetic.

RACE IN THE CLASSROOM

The right way to advance tolerance after Lawrence

Legacies can enrich, but they can also divide. Those who conducted the inquiry into Stephen Lawrence's murder hope that from the tragedy of his death might spring a determination to tackle the evils that attended it. It is to be hoped, as we argued yesterday, that the Macpherson report's publication will accelerate the necessary reform of the police service to bring its operations into line with the best modern practice. But reform of the police aside, it is deeply questionable whether other changes that are proposed will contribute to social harmony. It has been widely noted that the report's proposals for the criminal justice system are problematic. But also worrying are its suggested reforms of the education system. Conceived in hope, they could foment further division.

The inquiry team was clearly shocked by the violent racism of those suspected of murdering Stephen Lawrence. The report regrets that "society allows such people to become or to be as they are". Its authors concede that "how society acts itself of such attitudes is not something we can prescribe, except to stress the need for education and example at the youngest age, and an overall attitude of zero tolerance of racism within our society". But their final recommendations are prescriptive and specific.

These include amending the national curriculum "in order better to reflect the needs of a diverse society", suggesting that schools record all "racist incidents", calling for the annual publication of the number of such incidents on a school-by-school basis and publishing the number of pupils "excluded" from every school each year, along with their "self-defined ethnic identity". These suggestions, taken together, form an invitation to Balkanise Britain's schools. They threaten to undermine, rather than entrench, the progress which has been made towards inclusiveness and toleration in the nation's classrooms.

Few professionals have worked harder than teachers to promote a healthy spirit of mutual respect in society. But wise teachers recognise that harmony is best promoted by emphasising the value of each individual and stressing that all surface differences are irrelevant in forming judgments about others. Those who bully people for reason of race, disability or any other differentiating characteristic should be punished for their failure to respect individuals, rather than categories. A colour-blindness which teaches children to think beyond all stereotypes is a more liberal and constructive response than the divisive labelling which the report points towards. It was just such an approach, which placed tolerance at the centre, which marked the teaching of another victim of violence — the inspirational headmaster Philip Lawrence.

Reform of the national curriculum to reflect the sensitivities of any lobby, however wellmeaning, distorts the purpose of this educational benchmark. Children of every background benefit most from a calm concentration on acquiring basic life skills rather than an agitated heightening of awareness which can have negative consequences. Already, radical activists are pressing for curricular reforms which recall those in America which sparked "culture wars".

Schools certainly will not benefit by being set against each other in a racism league table. Teachers already face difficulties in the maintenance of discipline. Published comparisons of the sort argued for in the report could incline some teachers to be especially lenient towards disruptive pupils from ethnic minorities. That would do no service to pupils, from every background, who wish to pursue their studies in a safe environment. David Blunkett, an Education Secretary possessed of admirable common sense, should thank the inquiry for its work, and then allow good teachers to get on with theirs.

THE WORLD OF WOO

Imagine 1,500 days of solitude

In a learned opinion delivered in 1928, the American judge Louis D. Brandeis spoke of: "The right to be alone — the most comprehensive of rights; and the right most valued by civilised men". Those who are reading these lines standing on a packed bus will readily assent. But to be alone, really alone, for 41 years, confined without normal conversation, or sight of family and friends, or news: which of us can imagine what that would be like, or how the mind could bear such isolation? It is the sleep of Rip Van Winkle, except that it is not sleep. That has been the world of Woo Yong Gak, the 70-year-old Korean who yesterday stood for the first time since 1958 on liberty's peopled thoroughfares.

He bowed to the crowd, and said: "I'm very happy to see the light." Irony was not intended: light, in a cell 12 feet by 12, must be a thing of dreams. But this old North Korean soldier, captured and convicted of espionage, was held all this time, not just in prison but in solitary confinement, because he refused to "see the light" as defined by South Korean authority and renounce his communist beliefs. Nor would he sign the lesser pledge, required by the Government of the former political prisoner, President Kim Dae Jung, affirming that he would obey South Korean law. For him and 16 other long-term prisoners, that requirement has now been waived, as part of an amnesty for more than 1,500 prisoners to mark President Kim's first year in office and the 80th anniversary of the Korean uprising against Japanese occupation.

The young soldier is now old; his speech impaired, and his smile frozen after a stroke. But his memory holds: of being held in a freezing chamber underground; of electric shocks; of silence, years of silence; and of the ultimate torture, total

ignorance of the fate of his wife and son in North Korea, about whom he still knows nothing, with whom he hopes to be reunited but who — for his "crime" of allowing himself to be captured — may, perhaps, have been executed years ago.

Oscar Wilde tried to imagine such a life: "All that we know who be in gaol / Is that the wall is strong;

And that each day is like a year; / A year whose days are long.

But when the days have stretched to nearly 15,000, time itself must have a stop, and instincts falter. Human beings are social animals whom solitary confinement deprives of a precious essence of humanity. Even communal confinement wears prisoners down. It is said that in wartime, POWs would latch on to new arrivals, insisting that they tell everything about their lives, their thoughts, the knowledge they had acquired; and that even the most brilliant would, after about three days, begin to repeat themselves. Solitary confinement prevents even such pooling of experience.

But time has no stop in the world beyond the walls. The Korea Mr Woo last saw was dirt-poor, its towns wasted by war, the surviving houses low and traditional. That is how much of the North still looks, with famine preying on poverty deeper even than he knew. But South Korea, despite its own economic troubles, is all skyscrapers, spaghetti junctions, giant factories and superstores. He will be housed at first in a special hostel to help him to adjust — to see what he has not even read about. An American murderer held for 68 years, the world record, was offered parole after 63 years. He refused. Mr Woo now steps, aged but without youth's street wisdom, into what, with Yeats, he must find "no country for old men". He can never be free.

GOOD SIGNALS

The rail summit set a pattern for the network's expansion

Railways are now used more intensively than ever before. But without proper regulatory signalling, the network will be gridlocked. John Prescott wheeled out the Prime Minister yesterday to tell Britain's train companies, at a "rail summit", that they were on trial. They were failing their customers, and those operators that continued to do so would lose their franchises. Not since Gladstone's Railway Act of 1844 has the Government spelt out so clearly what it wanted the railways to do.

Tony Blair knows that transport is a potential vote-loser. Road congestion, late, crowded and dirty trains and high fares are the stuff of daily complaint and occasional fury. The Deputy Prime Minister has been increasingly frustrated that exhortation has had little effect on performance. But his proposed remedy, the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA), has fallen foul of another area of congestion, the crowded legislative timetable.

Until the SRA is in place, the Government will have to use existing regulators and levers to sort out the congestion on Britain's fast expanding network. The SRA will have teeth: the welcome appointment of Sir Alastair Morton as its head already gives it credibility. If the legislation on the House of Lords can be cleared in time, it may yet be set up this year. Already it has a

clear agenda, which existing regulatory bodies have begun to implement.

Market competition has been firmly established on the network. The most urgent task now is to get the many parts of the privatised system working better together. Yesterday's summit was a small step towards closer co-operation, enabling the 25 train operators to voice their complaints, collective as well as individual, against Railtrack, which in turn had a chance to explain its priorities and justify the pace and level of investment. Where co-operation is lacking, the SRA must decide in the passengers' interests. Why, for example, should Britain's most overcrowded line, Thameslink, have to wait until 2006 before new lines are built through London under the new Chunnel Tunnel link project?

Another priority is to change the structure of incentives and penalties, though without new legislation that will be hard. Train companies that are investing heavily, running good services and attracting more passengers should be rewarded with long-term assurance: GNER, more than anyone, deserves to be clear that its franchise will be extended. Those that underinvest are now being told, in Mr Prescott's seaman's language, that they must "shape up or ship out".

Yours faithfully,
NORRIS McWHIRTER (Chairman),
The Freedom Association,
35 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7JB.
February 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Five tests for UK adoption of euro

From Mr John Stevens, MEP for Thames Valley (Independent), and others

Sir, You are to be congratulated for devoting considerable space to the euro (reports and leading article, February 24; letters, February 25). This is clearly the most critical issue now facing Britain.

Matthew Parris, in his Political Sketch on the same day, rightly suggests that William Hague's Conservative Party will not survive the debate on EMU intact. The planned campaign of the Pro Euro Conservative Party in this June's European elections must mark the end of any formal attempt to unite the Conservative Party around a position of dogmatic Euroscepticism.

We would argue that your five test points on the euro are unsound. The fact that our European partners have not travelled as far as us down the road to free market liberalism in crucial areas of their economies enhances, not diminishes, the case for British entry.

Outside the euro our advantages are handicapped, inside we can exploit them to the full. British politicians should be concerned about British jobs, not about those in France or Germany. Waiting for EMU to be "a manifest and sustained success" guarantees that we will be entering when our negotiating power is at its weakest. Investing on such a basis would not be very profitable.

Your claim to be true upholders of Anglo-Saxon economics sits ill with your aversion to independent central banking. Of course, it is in Britain's interest that monetary union should not lead to political centralisation, but that battle can only be won as a member of EMU, not from the sidelines.

Yours etc,
JOHN STEVENS,
BRENDAN DONNELLY,
RICHARD BASSETT,
. Pro Euro Conservative Party,
40 Smith Square, SW1P 3HL.
February 25.

Lawrence recommendations to tackle police racism

From Mr D. A. Coleman

Sir, The Government's response to the Stephen Lawrence tragedy is a damaging overreaction (reports and leading article, February 25; letters, February 24; letters, February 25). It is one thing to reform police practices. It is quite another to try to force a whole society into a different shape on the basis of one badly mishandled murder inquiry.

If, as promised, legislation against discrimination becomes even wider-ranging, then dealing with members of ethnic minority populations as ordinary fellow citizens will become more difficult. Every issue of recruitment, promotion, reward and punishment will become more troublesome when a member of any ethnic minority is involved. Fear of litigation will institutionalise special treatment. The temptation to shelter behind accusations of racism, already sporadically apparent, will become harder to resist. The management of immigration will become impossible.

Another dismal consequence will be the additional influence given to the ideological zealots of the "anti-racist" movement, whose intolerance and witch-hunting have already damaged standards in some areas of education, social work and probation work.

It would be quite perverse to increase the powers of the Commission for Racial Equality without subjecting it to rigorous external scrutiny. If that flawed institution could be reformed, or preferably replaced by other mechanisms in which we could feel more confidence, then this depressing response might have more beneficial results.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COLEMAN
13 Crick Road,
Oxford OX2 6QL.
February 25.

From Mr Graham Lyons

Sir, You state in your leading article today that: "The proposal [in the Macpherson report] that individuals accused of one crime could be retried for the same offence, if new evidence is uncovered after the acquittal, is profoundly liberal". I disagree, at least equally profoundly.

It is anything but just that either the Lawrence family or the public who support them should be faced with the present awful finality of no further

Police complaints

From Mrs Hilary White

Sir, Mr P. W. Moorhouse, chairman of the Police Complaints Authority (letter, February 13), does not even begin to address the core of Liz Parris's article (Law, February 19) on how to restore public confidence in the police.

Under the 1984 Police and Criminal Evidence Act, it is the chief officer of the force concerned who has responsibility for recording and investigating complaints made against his own officers. As a result, if the police are able to dismiss an incident as falling within their remit, they can do so simply by refusing to record it as a complaint.

The PCA has no true independence or power, in that it can only supervise and monitor investigations that the

trial. The Lawrence family's five years of waiting should not be compared with the worry to be suffered by five alleged murderers facing trial. They should not benefit simply because the Lawrence family made the mistake of launching a private prosecution at a time when there was too little evidence for there to be a case to answer.

The public also has a right to be protected from the risk of five alleged murderers being at large until they are properly tried. If there were to become sufficient evidence to place before a jury, they at least would have the chance of an acquittal.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE GILL,
Chairman,
Northumbria Police Authority,
2 Pump Court,
Temple, EC4Y 7AH.
February 25.

From Mr R. C. Heape

Sir, It is right that with the publication of the Macpherson report, the focus of attention should for a short time be on the Metropolitan Police.

But society as a whole should not forget that it was not institutional racism that killed Stephen Lawrence. The perpetrators of that crime were born amongst us and the blame for their behaviour must lie with their parents and the society in which they were raised.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN HEAPE,
Bay Farm, Avoch,
Ross-shire IV9 8RP.
February 24.

From Councillor George Gill,
Chairman of the Northumbria Police Authority

Sir, In your leader of February 23 you state that John Stevens, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, "is not famed for radicalism himself and would not possess the authority to impose real change".

John Stevens was Chief Constable of Northumbria between 1991 and 1996. He inherited a force which had many strengths but which needed change in fundamental and far-reaching ways. He formulated and implemented those changes successfully and with breathtaking speed.

The result of his actions was to remodel the Northumbria Police Force (one of the largest outside London).

police themselves have decided to conduct.

In fairness to the police, what public service would not use such a means of limiting complaints made against it? There is a pressing need for an independent investigative authority with the power to make objective decisions over what should or should not be investigated further, quite apart from taking responsibility for the investigation itself.

Under the horrifying Lawrence case to the trivial and borderline, both the general public and the force itself deserve an independent body with these powers.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY WHITE,
28 Palmers Road,
Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9PB.
February 17.

in skins" for a minute longer than television has them in view.)

However, the real scandal is that, when funding for serious archaeology is at its nadir, this travesty should be supported by lottery money to the tune of £100,000 — enough to fund the living expenses of ten worthwhile postgraduate research students for three years.

Furthermore, the complacent assertion that a serious scientific purpose underlies what is no more than *its a Knockout* in woad and woolly knickers, implies that the lottery grants committee consulted some archaeological authority which, worriedly, conferred its imprimatur on the overall doddiness.

I remain yours faithfully,
IAN BLAKE,
Blair Cottage,
Aultgarth, Melvaig,
Gairloch, Wester Ross IV21 2DG.
February 23.

From Mr Brian Atewell

Sir, Having had the wonderful fortune to visit many of the islands in the Bahamas chain, usually to work but sometimes just to relax, I can certainly recommend the western Andros group.

Androsian days often start with quite magical mists which lift to reveal a beautiful series of varied islands.

Glorious beaches stretch for dozens of miles while the luxuriant interiors feature amazing "blueholes" — ponds, 30 yards across or more, that tunnel their way out to sea and are an irresistible invitation to intrepid divers. Birdlife is abundant. The local people are friendly and fun. The American-run naval centre offers many familiar amenities, if missed.

Three months in Andros during our winter! Heaven. I dream of it.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN ATTEWELL,
(High Commissioner,
The Bahamas, 1992-96),
86 Vineyard Hill Road, SW19 7JJ.
February 17.

Brit-spotting

From Mr M. D. Jarvis

Sir, I have been reading with interest about the ease with which the Englishman abroad is recognised (letters, January 29; February 6, 13, 18 and 20). Our natural assumption of superiority, mocking self-deprecation, the feeling that we "fit in" wherever we are and, of course, our innate humility set us apart from men of other nations.

I notice, however, that your correspondents comment only on the male of the species. Are our womenfolk, perhaps, different?

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

M. D. JARVIS,
37 St Bernards Road, Whitwick,
Leicester LE6 5GX.
martin@coahville-swinternet.co.uk
February 22.

Business letters, page 35

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Joe Hill 150



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 25: The Queen received His Excellency Chief Ernesto Anayolu, Commonwealth Secretary General.

His Excellency Dr George Gonello du Puis was received in audience by The Queen today and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for Malta in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the High Commission: Mr Joseph Cole (Counsellor), Mr Carmel D. Inguanez (Counsellor), Mr Rodrick Sant (First Secretary), Dr Elaine Cuajra (Finserv Secretary).

Mrs Iris Bonello du Puis was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Kerr, Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was present.

The Honourable Mr Justice Bodey was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

The following were received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon their appointment as Her Majesty's Attorneys: Mr David Lycos (Bristol), Mr Garry Innes (Taichung) and Mr Richard Muir (Kuwait).

Mrs Lycos, Mrs Innes and Mrs Muir were also received by The Queen.

Mr David Hollamby was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as Governor to St Helena.

Mrs Hollamby was also received by The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 25: The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Trustee, today attended a Quarterly Meeting of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum followed by lunch at the museum. Greenwich, London SE10.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Concert and Dinner for Arts for Nature. The Alliance of Religions and Conservation and The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Foundation at Buckingham Palace.

Royal engagements

The Queen will visit St Martin-in-the-Fields High School, Tulse Hill, London SW1 at 11.00.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Leicester Mercury newspaper offices at 10.45, Leicester University at 11.00, Leicester Grammar School at 11.50, Everards Brewery at 12.45 and the Checkland Kindleysides' Offices at 3.00.

The Prince of Wales will open the 21st Operation Bumblebee Stolen Property & Crime Prevention Roadshow, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police, at the Barque Quay, Wembley Stadium.

The Duke of York will attend a Dining in Night at the Officers' Mess, RAF Northolt at 7.30.

Birthdays today

Mr Paul Ackford, rugby player, 41; Lord Bridge of Harwich, 82; Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, solicitor, 55; Mr Johnny Cash, singer, 67; Sir Peter Cazalet, former chairman, APV, 70; Mr David Edgar, playwright, 51; Mr S.J. Etherington, chief executive, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 44; Sir Donald Farquharson, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 71; Mr Harry Gold, bandleader and saxophonist, 92; Dr B.J. Greenhill, author, 79; Mr Christopher Hope, writer, 55; Miss Emma Kirkby, soprano, 30; Professor Noreen Murray, RPSI, molecular biologist, 64; Sir Michael Perry, former chairman, Unilever, 65; Dr Arthur Studdert, a former Provost of the City of London Polytechnic, 80; Mr Tony Selby, actor, 61; Dr Diana Wallford, director of services, Public Health Laboratory Service, 55; Sir Everton Weekes, former cricketer, 74.

JAMES'S PALACE
February 25: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales's Foundation for Architecture and the Urban Environment, this morning visited the Foundation's new premises in Shoreditch, London EC2.

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a lunch at the Chamber of Shipping, Carthusian Street, London EC1.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, received a briefing on the progress of the Regeneration through Heritage Campaign.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 25: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, today attended the Borders Carers Day at the Roxburgh Hotel, Kelso, Roxburghshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Roxburgh, Ettrick and Lauderdale (Dr June Paterson-Brown).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited N. Peale Ltd, Victoria Road, Hawick, and later J. Scott Ltd, Princess Street, Hawick, Roxburghshire.

The Princess Royal subsequently visited the Glenview Children's Residential Home, Marigold Drive, Galashiels, Roxburghshire.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Victim Support Scotland, this afternoon attended a dinner at The Royal Bank of Scotland, 42 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan), the Right Hon the Lord Provost.

The following were received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon their appointment as Her Majesty's Attorneys: Mr David Lycos (Bristol), Mr Garry Innes (Taichung) and Mr Richard Muir (Kuwait).

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School news

The Portsmouth Grammar School with Portsmouth Cathedral

The Provost and Chapter of Portsmouth Cathedral and the Headmaster of The Portsmouth Grammar School are pleased to announce the institution of a Philip Barrett Scholarship to commemorate the Rev Philip Barrett, a former pupil of the School, Princeton, a former scholar and distinguished ecclesiastical scholar. Gregory Sanderson has been elected as the first Scholar.

Wymondham Abbey School

Wymondham Abbey School has made the following awards for 1999:

- The Wycombe Abbey Open Scholarship - Eliza Aperty, Windsor High School
- The Wycombe Abbey Young Scholar - Emma Thompson, Blue House Preparatory School
- The Centenary Scholarship - Chloe Blandy, Godolphin Preparatory School, Kathering Taylor, Bramley School
- The Wycombe Abbey Open Scholarship for Music - Sophie Schubert for Music
- The Wycombe Abbey Open Scholarship for Music - Louise Abbott, Louise Bradbury, High March School
- The Wycombe Abbey Open Scholarship - Joanna Gilber, Malvern Green School
- Alice Horden, Wymondham Abbey; Elizabeth Anne Weston, Wymondham Abbey; Anna Miller, House, Maida Shire, Wymondham Abbey; Ceddy White, Wymondham Abbey
- The Wycombe Abbey Open Scholarship for Music - Sophie Schubert for Music
- The Wycombe Abbey Open Scholarship for Music - Louise Abbott, Louise Bradbury, High March School
- The Wycombe Abbey Open Scholarship - Fiona Williams, Lucy Kerr, Sophie Schubert, Anna Miller, Anna Weston, Ceddy White, Wymondham Abbey

Wymondham Abbey School Charities No. 50022-23 (AV).

Reception

Youth Afslah Child Rescue A Cocktail Reception was held at the Lord Chancellor's Residence last night at which Mr Alan Diamond spoke.

Service dinner

Corps of Royal Engineers
General Sir John Stibbs, Chief Royal Engineer, presided at a dinner of the Corps of Royal Engineers held last night in Chatham. The Honorary Colonels of the RE Territorial Army Units and the Masters of the Masons' and Plumbers' Companies were among those present.

Dinners

Bharatya Vidya Bhawan
The Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Indian High Commissioner were the principal guests at a dinner of the Bharatya Vidya Bhawan held last night at the Portman Hotel. Mr Manek Dala, chairman, and Dr M.N. Nandakumar, executive director, also spoke.

Institution of Electrical Engineers

Mr Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws, QC, Chair of the British Council, were the principal guests at the annual dinner of the Institution of Electrical Engineers held last night at Grosvenor House. Dr John Taylor, president, was in the chair. The Lord Mayor of Westminster attended. Among those present were the Chinese Ambassador, Lord Mayhew of Twysden, QC, also spoke. Among others present were:

Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, MP, Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, Mr Richard Andrew, QC, and Baroness Anday of St Johns, Mr Edward Garrard, QC, MP, Mr Peter Courtney, MP, Mr Alan Egan, MP, Mr Michael Laing, MP, Mr Leslie Price, MP, Mr Oliver Self, QC, Mr Andrew Mitchell, QC, Mr Jonathan Slingman, Mr Roger Evans, Mrs Frances Baumber and Mr Christopher Franks, secretary.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 25: The Duke of Gloucester, President, British Consultants Bureau, this evening attended the Annual Dinner at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 25: The Duke of Kent this morning visited the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Central Science Laboratory, York.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK
February 25: Princess Alexandra, President, this afternoon received the Hon Mrs Sara Morrison, Chairman of WWF-UK.

Royal Society
Sir Aaron Klug, OM, President of the Royal Society, and Lady Klug were the hosts at an evening of music and readings held last night at 6 Carlton House Terrace to mark the inauguration of the society's new Kohn Centre, refurbished with a grant from the Kohn Foundation. Dr and Mrs Ralph Kohn, Dr Michael Kohn, Miss Maxine Kohn and Mrs Hepzibah Rudolphi were welcomed by Sir Aaron and officers of the society.

Luncheon

Insurers' Company
Mr Max Taylor, Chairman of Lloyd's, was the principal guest at a luncheon of the Insurers' Company held yesterday at Drapers' Hall. During the luncheon Mr Taylor presented the company's Award Certificate to Mrs J.A. Smith, Mr Peter H. Purchon, Master Bishop (Southwark).

Appointments in the Forces

The Army

COLONEL: N P Gaskell - to be Deputy Commander HQ Caterpillar Garrison - Feb 15; D F Davies to be Colonel SPS2 DPSA - Feb 15; A M Hood - to be Colonel LSP4 - Feb 15.

Retirements

BRIGADIER: C D Parr - late INT Corps 2L2.99; P J Wagstaffe - late RA 15.29; J R Smiles - late 14/20H 24.29.

COLONEL: M J N Richards - late RA 19.29.

Royal Air Force

Retirements
AIR COMMODORE: P R Thomas - APPA Insworth, 26.2.99.

RAF CAPTAIN: D H Anderson - RAF Uxbridge, 22.2.99; E C Foster - APPA Insworth, 22.2.99; P J Gooding - 26.2.99; N Gregory HQ MATO - 22.2.99; P Roberts - D Aerospace, 26.2.99; M R Trace - RAF PMA, 26.2.99; WING COMMANDER: J M Cordiner - RAF Brize Norton, 22.2.99; M P O'Sullivan - DSCA HQ 22.2.99.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26 1999

OBITUARIES

LORD PHILLIPS OF ELLESMORE

Lord Phillips of Ellesmere, KBE, FRS, scientist and science policymaker, died on February 23 aged 74. He was born in Ellesmere, Shropshire, on March 7, 1924.

David Phillips belonged to that highly successful and much-garlanded generation of British scientists who used X-ray crystallography to determine the structures of biological molecules. He also distinguished himself as a scientific adviser of candour and good judgment, serving as chairman of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils for ten sometimes sticky years in the 1980s and 1990s.

The scientific highlight of his career was his leadership of the group that determined the three-dimensional structure of the enzyme lysozyme (the first to be so anatomised) and the consequent deduction of its mode of action. This work established him as one of the leaders in the field of structural molecular biology and helped to consolidate Britain's position too.

David Chilton Phillips was born at

Ellesmere in Shropshire and attended Oswestry Boys' High School. He went on to University College, Cardiff, where he took a wartime two-year physics degree, after which he served in the RNVR as a radar officer. Returning to Cardiff, he did postgraduate studies in crystallography, and then spent four years at the National Research Council Laboratories in Ottawa, where he determined the structures of some organic compounds with carcinogenic properties.

In 1954 Sir Lawrence Bragg, the discoverer with his father of X-ray crystallography, moved from the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge to direct the Royal Institution in London. He decided to establish a collaboration with the Cambridge laboratory funded by the Medical Research Council, where Max Perutz and John Kendrew had just achieved a breakthrough that might permit the determination of the three-dimensional structures of large molecules such as proteins. Bragg recruited four or five post-doctoral workers for this collaboration. Phillips headed the London office of the myoglobin project, which was headed by Kendrew and which led to the

determination of the first 3-D structure of a protein molecule in 1958.

The method involved the measurement by hand of spots on photographic films and the manual transfer of the data to computers. Phillips helped to design automatic methods which produced the measurements directly on paper tape which could be fed into a computer.

The growing extended range of computers extended the range of X-ray crystallography to ever more complex molecules. Enzymes are the natural catalysts which promote reactions in living systems with very high efficiency and specificity, and it was clear that a full understanding of their properties required a knowledge of their structures. Phillips led the group which determined the complete structure of lysozyme in 1965, a structure even less

regular than those of haemoglobin and myoglobin, but with a deep cleft on one surface which suggested how it might interact with other molecules. With the other members of the group and with C. A. Vernon, he was able to propose a mechanism for the enzyme's catalytic activity which has since been shown to be essentially correct. It was the forerunner of many similar studies worldwide.

The work was immediately recognised to be of very great importance. Phillips was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and was awarded many honorary degrees and a number of medals, including the Royal Medal of the Royal Society in 1975.

With Sir Lawrence Bragg's retirement from the Royal Institution, Phillips and his colleagues moved to Oxford, where he

became Professor of Molecular Biophysics. Not universally welcomed at first by the Oxford establishment, the laboratory of molecular biophysics developed good relations with chemists, biologists and biochemists. As it expanded it embarked upon many other projects on the structures of enzymes, antibodies, viruses and other macromolecular complexes.

Phillips served as a vice-president of the Royal Society, 1972-73, and as biological secretary, 1976-83. He was then appointed chairman of the advisory board for the research councils, the body responsible for advising the Government on the disposition of funding for research councils and universities. This brought him into contact with many leading politicians, which he relished, not least because his grandfather had been one of the first trade union MPs.

The role was a difficult one, challenged on one side by scientists demanding more money and on the other by Thatcherite parsimony. Though Phillips never perhaps decided on where his loyalties lay, he could often be dryly witty. Charged to justify claims that the Government had maintained spending on science in a year

when it manifestly had not, he acknowledged that the Government statement on the subject "wasn't intended not to confuse". He once caused offence by charging physists with "constantly demanding money for new toys", but calls for his resignation were easily rebuffed.

Created a life peer in 1994, he became a member of the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology in 1995 and was its chairman from 1997 until ill-health forced him to resign. He had been knighted in 1979 and appointed KBE in 1989.

Rather diffident in his earlier days as a lecturer, he rapidly gained in confidence, and his friendly manner helped to smooth over difficulties. Despite increasing ill health, he gallantly persevered with the writing of an article putting the determination of the structure of lysozyme in a historical perspective. It was complete in draft form at the time of his death, and its publication should serve as a fitting tribute to his part in the development of structural molecular biology.

He is survived by his wife Diana, whom he married in 1960, and a daughter.

JERZY TUROWICZ

Jerzy Turowicz, Polish newspaper editor, died in Krakow on January 27 aged 86. He was born on December 12, 1912.

THOUGH he was always modest about his role, Jerzy Turowicz became a living symbol of what Polish intellectuals were prepared to stand up for in the Orwellian world of Communist-run Poland. For more than fifty years he was Editor-in-Chief of the Catholic *Tygodnik Powszechny* ("Universal Weekly"), the only major independent paper east of the Berlin Wall until the fall of communism.

He fought a long, skilful battle with the Communist regime in Poland, defending the public presence of the Catholic Church, democratic values and human rights. He was both principled and adroit. The Nobel Prize-winning poet Czeslaw Milosz described him as "a fox".

In 1953, after Stalin's death, Turowicz refused to publish a eulogy of the dictator's alleged contributions to the well-being of the new Poland, and was duly punished by the authorities, who took his magazine away from him and his staff. When it was returned to its founding fathers in December 1956, Turowicz continued to promote the same values in his paper.

Born in Krakow and raised in a committed Roman Catholic home, Jerzy Turowicz was educated at Lvov Technical University and the Jagiellonian University of Krakow. He never accepted the idea of a political Catholicism as a bulwark against liberalism or as a weapon against proponents of an "open society". Instead, he made his weekly magazine into the most coherent Polish Catholic voice for the ideas of the Second Vatican Council. The portraits of the reform-minded Pope John XXIII and his successor Paul VI still hung in Turowicz's office at the time of his death.

In the 1970s and 1980s the magazine became a forum for almost all the leading figures in the Polish democratic opposition movement. In constant dispute with the Communist censor, *Tygodnik* managed to function as a think-tank for the new Poland, which emerged

ged in 1989 as a result of the struggles of the Solidarity movement. When talks began between Solidarity and the Communist regime, Turowicz was active as a figure respected by both sides.

One of his best friends, Tadeusz Maziowiecki, a Catholic activist, then became the country's first non-Communist Prime Minister for more than forty years. The new government's agenda was exactly what *Tygodnik* had been advocating over the years: a market economy, a pluralist society, a free media and culture, Poland serving as a bridge between East and West.

Subsequently Turowicz criticised the high-handed tactics of the Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, who turned against the Mazowiecki Government. Nonetheless, as President, Walesa awarded him the country's highest decoration, the Order of the White Eagle.

Turowicz was a close friend of Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope John Paul II, who made his debut as a writer in *Tygodnik* while still a young priest and who contributed to it until he was elected to the papacy. Like the Pope, Turowicz firmly believed that Christianity would continue to be the defining feature of European culture and tradition. With his former contributor installed on St Peter's throne in 1978, Turowicz had a new way to spread his ideas of a Church able to find a common language with the oppressed or persecuted, as well as with the spiritually hungry in every corner of the world. His advice was sought by the Pope when working on several of his encyclicals.

Turowicz served for many years as a member of various Catholic institutions, including the Polish episcopate's commission for the dialogue with Judaism and the John Paul II Foundation in Rome. He was also awarded the papal Order of St Gregory the Great. He was a voracious reader of newspapers and magazines in English, French, German and Italian, and they remained for years in mounting stacks in his study.

Jerzy Turowicz is survived by his wife, Anna Gostrowska, and by three daughters.

Mary Hillier, author and authority on dolls, toys and automata, died on February 14 aged 81. She was born in London on April 30, 1917.

MARY HILLIER was a leading expert on dolls, toys and automata, on all of which she wrote authoritative books. Her special interest was wax dolls of the 19th century; she did enterprising research into the London families with foreign names who had made them — the Montenarsis and Pierottis — tracing several living descendants. Her searches in the Patent Office records yielded valuable information about doll construction. She was also instrumental in ensuring that the Victoria and Albert Museum acquired the most famous of all English dolls, the late-17th-century couple known as "Lord and Lady Clapham", about which she published a new hypothesis earlier this year.

Mary Louise Hillier was born in 1917, the only daughter of the West End florist Harry Palmer and his wife Beatrice Amelia (née Larkam). Her mother's family claimed kinship with the painter Van Dyck. Mary's maternal grandmother, Esmeralda Larkam (née Dick-Tidbury), caused an Edwardian scandal by running off with the boxing champion Joe Steers, who had previously been paying court to her elder daughter.

Mary Palmer was originally named Marie Louise, after Queen Victoria's granddaughter; but the child's brothers, twins ten years older than she, mercilessly teased her with the jingle "Marie Louise / The

Queen of the Fleas" and the first name was eventually changed to Mary.

As a child, Mary Palmer was a tomboy. She envied her brothers their bicycles and football games and, ironically, had not the slightest interest in dolls. She first went to a Montessori school, then won a scholarship to Fulham County School, where she was head girl and shone in both work and games.

Her first job was as secretary to the barrister and author C.G.L. Du Cann. She

then moved on to the Royal Society, and from there went as publications officer to Burlington House.

Mary Palmer was faced with an unconventional beauty with large, lustrous eyes, her hair at this time ruthlessly cut in an "Eton crop". (More than once a bus conductor addressed her as "sonny".) In the mid 1930s she met Jack Hillier, an insurance underwriter, who later became an authority on Japanese art. Together they spent a lot of time bird-watching on Wim-

bledon Common. They married in 1938. A son and a daughter were born during the war, much of which Jack Hillier spent in Aden with the RAF.

In 1947 the family moved to Merton, Surrey, where Mary helped her husband with his work for Sotheby's, ferrying batches of Japanese prints back and forth for such salerooms as Hilary Kay and Burne Campion, stalwarts of *The Antiques Roadshow*.

She was the first to be shown "Lord and Lady Clapham" when they arrived at Sotheby's in 1974. She bid for them on behalf of Mrs Bodmer and was successful with a bid of £16,000. Such was the outcry in the art world, however, that the Department of Trade refused an export licence. Mrs Bodmer, a woman of some determination, reacted by saying: "Very well, I shall take a room for Lord and Lady Clapham at Claridge's. There they will stay and there I shall visit them when I come to London." It was Hillier who tactfully persuaded her to relent and to let the V&A acquire the dolls for a little more than she had paid.

A few weeks before her death, Mary Hillier published her last book, a study of the children's book illustrator Chloe Preston (1887-1969).

Her husband predeceased her in 1995. She is survived by her son, the art historian and journalist Bevis Hillier, and by her daughter, the fashion designer Mary Thompson.

MARY HILLIER



Mary Hillier and the 17th-century dolls known as "Lord and Lady Clapham", which she helped to keep in Britain



JACK BRIDLE

Jack Bridle, OBE, firefighter, died on January 27 aged 91. He was born on June 30, 1907.

JACK BRIDLE was instrumental in the creation of the wartime National Fire Service, and in its operational strategy. When the Blitz fell with full force on the industrial cities of the West Midlands in late 1940, his new tactics revolutionised the capacity of the fire service to concentrate its appliances at the scene of a blaze.

Until then it had been Home Office policy to insist on keeping a large reserve of appliances at all stations, whether or not they were fighting a fire in their own area. This was designed to allay local authority fears of air raids, but meant that only a small proportion of the available reinforcements from any given station would be sent to a blazing city which needed them. Men and appliances lay idle at stations nearest the fires, while reinforce-

ments had to be brought from further afield. Reinforcement was slow and the direction of fire crews at the fire itself was uncoordinated.

All this changed in early November 1940 when Bridle pursued in Birmingham a tactic which he had developed in London, of mobilising towards the fire by stage reinforcement. At each stage the nearest station moved all available appliances and men to the area under attack and was itself reinforced in turn by the next ring of stations, and so on. This total mobilisation progressively reinforced the pumps at the scene of the fire and cut down delays in getting there. In Birmingham, despite wholesale destruction of the famous Bull Ring, this concentration of firefighting capability greatly reduced the danger to the rest of the city.

Yet, within hours of first practising this tactic, Bridle was summoned to the Home Office to face a board of inquiry presided over by Sir Arthur Dixon, the responsible Under-Secretary. Bridle received a severe reprimand for

disregarding Home Office directives and exceeding his authority — though the board noted the beneficial effects of his staged mobilisation and appropriate alterations were subsequently made to regional standing orders.

The benefits of staged mobilisation were not, however, able to control the firestorm that developed during the raid on Coventry on the night of November 14-15, 1940. The destruction wreaked on the city that night was for ever etched on Bridle's mind. At the height of the raid, while on a

short reconnaissance, he found himself alone in a city centre street faced by a multitude of fleeing rats — a memory that never left him. When King George VI visited the stricken city the following day, Bridle escorted him around the ruins, finally getting to bed at 3pm after almost 48 hours on duty.

Alfred John Bridle was born at London's famous Shaftesbury Avenue fire station, the eldest son of a serving firefighter. Since recruiting policy in those days gave preference to ex-servicemen, at 17 he joined the Royal Engineers. After six years' service mainly in the Middle East, he qualified as a regimental instructor at the Command School of Education at Alexandria. But despite the attempts of his CO to persuade him to accept a posting to the Army College of Education at Shorncliffe, with a view to gaining a commission, he was resolved to pursue his boyhood ambition.

He joined the London Fire Brigade in June 1931 and gained wide experience at a number of stations in the metropolitan area. He was seconded to the Home Office Inspectorate of Fire Brigades in February 1940, and when the Blitz began was sent to Birmingham.

After his successes in the West Midlands, and in spite of the Home Office reprimand, Bridle was, in 1941, made No 23 Area Fire Force Commander, responsible for Warwickshire and the West Midlands. At 34 he was the youngest area commander in the country. He was appointed OBE in 1942.

By early 1943 there was a marked reduction in the intensity of air raids, and he was posted to command No 4 Fire Force Area, centred on Leeds, the largest command in northern England.

After the war, following a brief period in command of the Fire Force, he was appointed Chief Fire Officer of West Sussex upon the return of the fire service to local authority control in April 1948. In 1963 he retired to Guernsey.

He married, in 1936, Eva Talbot, who survives him with their son.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARLES PEACE EXECUTED

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Charles Peace was yesterday executed within the precincts of Armley Gaol, Leeds, for the

THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26 1999

NEWS

Miracle boy rescued from snow

The rescue of a four-year-old boy, trapped under snow for almost two hours, yesterday encouraged first aid workers and Austrian soldiers to continue their increasingly desperate search for survivors of one of the most deadly avalanches ever experienced in the Tyrolean Alps.

The boy, still in intensive care but said to be smiling, was found clinically dead after 100 minutes under the deep layer of snow which swept into the small village of Valzur Pages 1, 4, 5

Lawrence informants named in report

■ Scotland Yard was offering secret informants in the Stephen Lawrence investigation special police protection last night after their identities were published in the Macpherson report. Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, who chaired the inquiry into the case, issued a public apology for the blunder Pages 1, 6

'Junkets' revealed

Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet Office minister known as "Junket Jack", had his reputation for high living confirmed when he declared a list of free hospitality in the last 12 months Page 1

Tory support rises

Support for the Conservative Party has risen to 30 per cent for the first time since the 1997 election, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times* Pages 1, 12

New 'C' named

Richard Dearlove, the present director of operations at MI6, is to be the new "C" — the Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced Page 1

Uni 'head' caught

A schizophrenic woman who earned almost £200,000 after fooling a university into making her a department head has been sent to the secure psychiatric unit after two years on the run Page 3

Noel's House empty

Noel's House, the Saturday night staple which irritated celebrities and television critics alike, was axed by the BBC Page 3

Dome party hits snag

A church boycott of new year celebrations at the Millennium Dome moved closer as organisers failed to support a guarantee that religion would be at the centre of the event Page 23

Park performance goes to the dogs

A selection of likely looking Crufts contenders went on parade in London to demonstrate that the annual dog show is about more than pedigree. It also emphasises training and good behaviour. Unfortunately, the latter seemed to be in short supply. A quartet of bull terriers had to be allowed to romp off their high spirits by belting round Green Park Page 9



The 100-year-old magnolia at the National Trust's Overbeck's Gardens in South Devon is blooming — a yearly sign that spring is near

TELECOMS

Telecoms bonanza sale: Nearly £1 billion worth of shares in two of Britain's most highly valued telephone companies — Orange and COLT Telecom — were put on the market Page 31

New Birmingham: Three property companies which planned to build competing shopping malls in Birmingham have joined forces in a £800 million plan Page 31

Poetry scheme: Top business executives swapped their pinstripes for the quill as part of a new scheme to raise interest in poetry Page 31

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 10.1 points to 6206.5. The pound rose 0.5 cents to \$1.6040 but fell 0.36p against the euro to 68.5p. The sterling index fell 100.6 from 101.0 Page 34

FOOTBALL

Football: Wembley shareholders have been urged to make up their minds about the future of the stadium in order to assist the FA's bid for the 2006 World Cup Page 60

Cricket: South African authorities may change some of the game's terms — including Chinaman — in order to avoid giving offence to racial groups Page 60

Tennis: Yevgeny Kafelnikov is only a single success away from becoming the world No 1 after his victory over Davide Sanguinetti in the Guardian Direct Cup in London yesterday Page 60

Rugby union: Victories in the Allied Dunbar Premiership next season will earn two points instead of three — while the World Cup is taking place Page 56

FINNISH GUESTS

Finnish guests: Finland's Lahja Symphony Orchestra, celebrating its 50th birthday, is making its British debut at Symphony Hall in Birmingham this weekend with a programme of Sibelius Page 42

Week in the Arts: "My dears, your bosoms should swell with pride, for we undoubtedly lead the world in the Barmy Millennium Ideas department," writes Richard Morris Page 43

Pop marriage: The Chieftains, Ireland's best-loved traditional music group, have teamed up with the Corrs, the glossiest stars in the pop firmament Page 47

Teen ambition: Brinley Spears, not yet 18, is at No 1 in the US album and singles charts, and she has her sights set on Britain Page 45

HOUSE

House style: Now that she is working from home, Jane Shilling needs a personal shopper to sort out her wardrobe Page 24

Too soon: The death of a premature baby is an all too common tragedy Page 25

PETER RIDDELL

Euro-sceptics claim that the People (and it is always in capital letters) are on their side. They should not be so sure Page 12

SIMON JENKINS

Rail management is an art as well as a science. After the wrong sort of leaves and the wrong sort of snow, benighted passengers are now being offered "the wrong sort of privatisation" to excuse a declining quality of service Page 26

MARY ANN SIEGHART

Why will I be sharing a platform with David Owen and many others who fought for a "yes" vote in 1975, to argue for Britain to stay out of the single currency? Page 26

PHILIP HOWARD

Nonsense can be poetry. But it also behoves us to cry "nonsense" when we see it. Poetry is what survives the crying Page 26

LORD PHILLIPS

Lord Phillips of Ellesmere, scientist; Mary Hillier, expert on dolls; Jerzy Turowicz, Polish journalist; Jack Bridle, firefighter Page 29

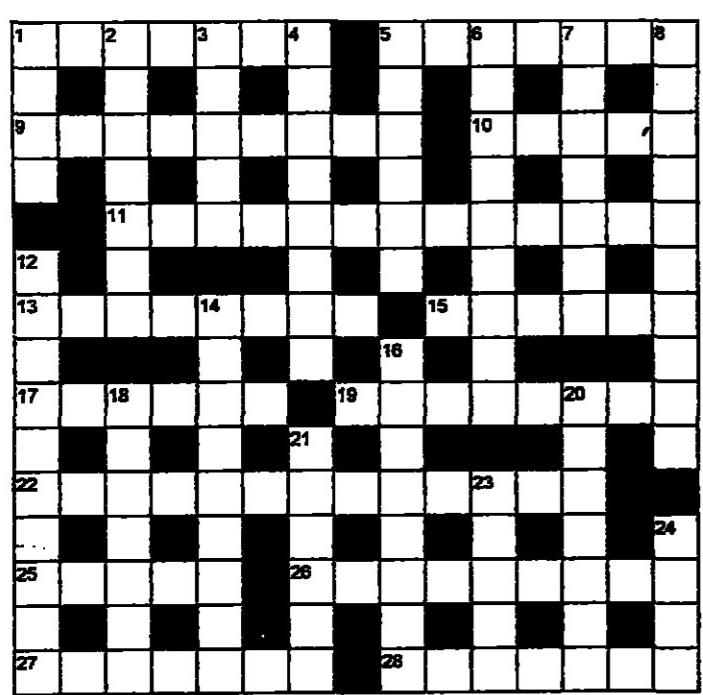
Criteria for British adoption of euro: Macpherson report; police complaints; Bahamas v Yeovil; Stonehenge; Yemen trial; trench-coats; Brits abroad Page 27

Tomorrow in The Saturday Times

**Play Homer's
'Find the nuclear rod'
game in the new
SIMPSONS
comic strip**



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,037



ACROSS

- Horse has a lot to carry — could be damaging (7).
- Tremulous family trapped in bog (7).
- Shrub giving shelter to park-oficer, by the sound of it (9).
- Timeless rock used as foundation (5).
- Monument for Paris — Priam and Hector rebuilt the outer parts (3,2,5).
- It rusted disastrously, turning into debris (8).
- Bodyguard employed by firm in Derby (6).
- Room to manoeuvre and turn fish around (6).
- Seek tall eccentric, extremely thin (8).
- Push off and start to fish? (5,4,4).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,036

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G C E E O N U
SHOWCASE TINKER
I S C P U L S
BEDSIT ORNAMENT
V I D F D A
BETA REFRIGATORY
M N I R R
LEADERSHIP ETION
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STOPPING RESIGN
A H G R M U A
WURFIN AQUARIUM
E E S T E G
ACHE DISHEARTEN

25 King and Queen tucked into cavare, say, on return trip (5).

26 One included in proposals about good church music (9).

27 Acrobat used to drink (7).

28 25 is maturer, somehow (7).

29 It shows amusement park's boundary (2,2).

30 Revise Marxist collection (7).

31 No love, in general, for foreign money (5).

32 Line of fire in wood (8).

33 Source of information victim pursued (6).

34 Delicious salami ordered and cut by brother (9).

35 One new drink I had, not delicious at all (7).

36 Important principle of Plinyian king's government? (6,4).

37 Teenager getting to the top without help from the State (10).

38 Opening during summer, Russian flower (9).

39 Aerial picture showing singular peak in Scottish island (8).

40 Saw English farm animals (7).

41 Obtain date (4,3).

42 Gunman frets over wasting energy (6).

43 He has a wife, a remarkable person all round (5).

44 Letters from British Isles turn up before noon (4).

INFORMATION

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Who is Britney Spears?

Arts, page 45



BUSINESS • ARTS • MEDIA • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26 1999

The news

at £1.25

everyday

Media, page 48

Telecoms groups in £1bn stock sale

Orange and COLT fuel share frenzy

By CHRIS AYRES

NEARLY £1 billion worth of shares in two of Britain's most highly valued telephone companies, Orange and COLT Telecom, were put up for sale yesterday.

The share sales come amid a frenzy of takeover activity in the telecoms sector, fuelled by the increasing popularity of mobile phones, and growing demand for both consumer and business Internet services.

Telecoms companies now enjoy higher valuations than ever, with Orange and COLT both listed in the FTSE-100 in spite of never having made profits. Orange is valued at £4 billion, while COLT is worth £7.6 billion.

About 50 million shares in Orange, Britain's third-largest mobile phone company, were put on the market when Hutchison Whampoa, the Hong Kong investment trust, said it would reduce its stake in the company from 49 per cent to 44.8 per cent. The sale was conducted by Goldman Sachs, the investment bank.

The shares were sold at 86p each, raising more than £430 million for Hutchison. Although analysts yesterday said the sale made Orange look vulnerable to a takeover bid, Hutchison sought to reassure investors by saying it would "maintain a substantial shareholding position of almost 45 per cent in the future".

Shares of Orange yesterday closed 5 per cent down at 907p.

Following the share sale, Orange's two original shareholders, Hutchison and British Aerospace (BAe) no longer own a controlling stake in the company. Although BAe yesterday said it had no immediate plans to sell its 5 per cent stake in the company, it acknowledged

The future £3.5m for Snook

WHEN Orange is free to buy mobile phones, it will start to compete with the rest of the telecoms industry, says Hans Snook, managing director of Orange UK.

Snook, who has been with Orange since 1989, said:

"We have to make sure we are competitive with other operators."

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RJB offers miners improved pay deal

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE first miners' strike by the Union of Democratic Mineworkers seems likely to be averted after RJB Mining yesterday increased its pay offer.

The leadership of the moderate union, which split from the National Union of Mineworkers during the last national strike 15 years ago, accepted the deal in last-minute talks before a scheduled walkout on Monday. It is now asking members to back the new offer at pit-head ballots.

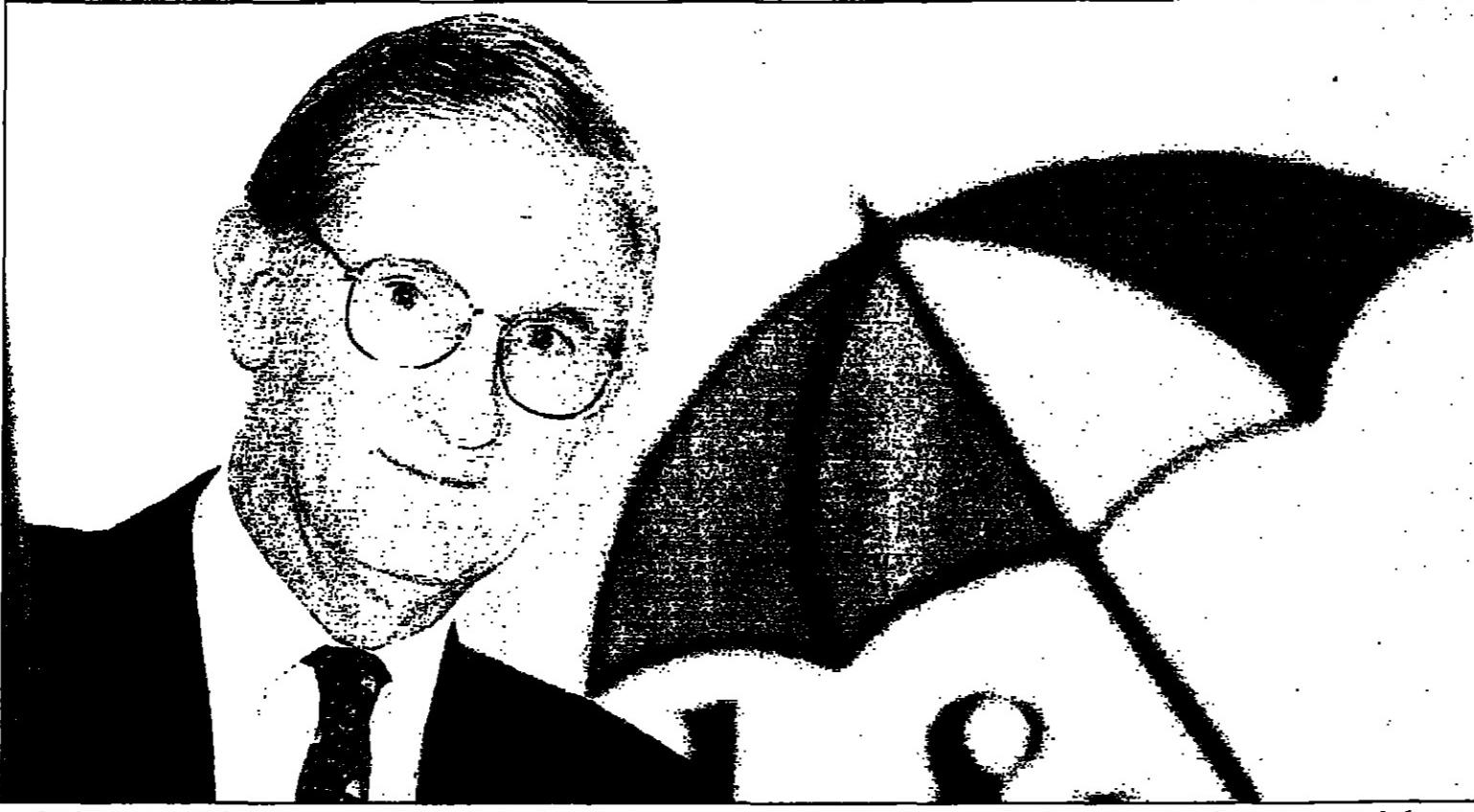
RJB increased its offer for this year from 2 per cent to 3.1 per cent. Thereafter it will pay annual increases of 2 per cent until 2003. It raised rates for overtime and scrapped a plan for a no-strike clause on redundancy packages.

Neil Greatrex, president of the UDM, said: "We have improved on the original offer in what are difficult times for the industry."

Richard Budge, RJB chief executive, said: "The improvements we have agreed with the UDM are a sensible compromise."

The NUM is currently balloting its members on industrial action.

Separately, the High Court yesterday reserved judgment on a claim by Nacods, the pit deputies union, that RJB is forcing employees to work more hours than the 48-hour maximum working week set out by the European Working Time Directive. Judgment on the claim is expected next week.



David Prosser, L&G chief executive, said he had not received any approaches, in spite of the consolidation taking place in the insurance industry

L&G shares drop as Prosser prepares to sacrifice margins

By MARIANNE CURPHEN
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Legal & General, the composite insurer, fell 1.2 per cent yesterday as it unveiled annual results and proposed a one-for four share split.

Analysts marked the stock down after David Prosser, the group's chief executive, said that he was prepared to sacrifice margin for volume.

Mr Prosser, who has been vocal about L&G's intentions to stay independent, said that he had not received any approaches from fellow composites in spite of the consolidation taking place in the insurance industry.

The shares fell 109p to 789p yesterday in spite of a 13 per cent rise in operating profits to £369 million, in line with analysts' expectations. The dividend rises 14 per cent to 14.48p a share from 12.7p.

New business reached £494 million, up 21 per cent, while funds under management rose to £83 billion from £62 billion.

L&G has been building up the amount of business sold through independent financial advisers (IFAs). Mr

Prosser said that 52 per cent of new business came through IFAs in 1998.

Mr Prosser added that the group was striving for market share and volume growth to drive profits, and was comfortable cutting margins and taking a lower re-

turn on capital to achieve that. He said: "Our positioning has been to consistently give the customer a good deal and we have accepted that we will have thinner margins in doing that, but we will rebuild our profits with volume growth."

In the UK, new individual life sales rose 24 per cent to £137 million, while single-premium sales advanced 50 per cent to £446 million.

New individual pensions business grew to £137 million, up 29 per cent while annual premium sales grew almost 14 per cent to £77 million and single-premium pension sales grew 36 per cent to £607 million.

Single payment PEP and unit trust sales of £755 were up 32 per cent. Sales through independent financial advisers grew 31 per cent to £191 million while sales through direct channels more than doubled to £66 million.

The UK life and pensions pre-tax operating profit rose 13 per cent to £261 million while management of external funds turned in £32 million from £21 million a year earlier.

Tempus, page 34

UAG ends doorstep call

UNITED Assurance Group (UAG) is ending 150 years of history by stopping door-to-door collection of premiums for life and savings policies (Marianne Curphay writes).

Alan Frost, appointed chief executive eight months ago, said that the practice was no longer cost effective and he wanted to target more affluent customers. Collection by standing order and direct debit will go on.

UAG yesterday reported a

fall in 1998 pre-tax profits to £193.9 million, from £226.7 million in 1997. Operating profits rose to £149.6 million from £141.9 million.

Earnings per share, before exceptional items, fell from 59.1p to 44.9p. The dividend rises by almost 17 per cent to 24.5p, from 21p. The shares fell 16p to 54.3p.

Prudential Corporation has already ended door-to-door collection of premiums because the high costs in-

volved made it financial products too expensive for its low-income customers.

The sector is still dominated by the Co-operative Insurance Society and by Britannia Assurance, with which UAG is rumoured to have held merger talks. Mr Frost declined to comment on whether he had received any approaches from Britannia.

UAG was formed by the merger of Refuge Assurance and United Friendly.

Smith & Nephew hopes for 10% boost

SMITH & NEPHEW, the hip and knee implant group that also sells Nivea cream, is hoping its recent reorganisation will enable it to produce earnings growth approaching 10 per cent this year (Paul Durman writes).

After the disruption caused by 400 job losses and other upheavals, Chris O'Donnell, chief executive, said: "It's really good to see the energy that's being liberated by this process."

Smith & Nephew is concentrating on orthopaedic implants, wound care and tools and cameras for key-hole surgery to try to end years of flat profits.

Last year, underlying pre-tax profits fell 5 per cent to £152 million, although the £18 million cost of the reorganisation reduced the total to £134.5 million.

The group will spend £52 million on rationalisation this year as it closes more factories. This is intended to pro-

duce £20 million of annual savings on top of the £15 million already achieved.

Mr O'Donnell blamed £15 million of the fall in profits on the strength of the pound, and another £4 million on delays with Dermagraft, the artificial skin product, which will not reach the US market for another year.

Smith & Nephew said that its underlying sales grew by 5 per cent, and by 6 per cent in orthopaedics and endosco-

py. Reported sales were little changed at £1.05 billion, with £237.7 million coming from orthopaedics, £173.9 million from endoscopy and £212.7 million from wound management.

Mr O'Donnell said that the company has received several offers for its knee-bracing business in the US.

A final dividend of 3.8p leaves the total unchanged at 6.2p. Smith & Nephew shares rose 23p to 183p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

German insurers act over tax threat

INSURANCE companies in Germany are stepping up their action against a government plan to impose new taxes that could raise up to DM20 billion (£7.1 billion). Mannheimer Versicherungsgruppe yesterday confirmed that it had stopped buying German government bonds. The move comes after a threat by Allianz, Germany's largest insurer, to transfer business out of Germany if the tax reform went ahead. Hans Schreiber, Mannheimer's chief executive, said that his company was switching its investments to government bonds issued by other euro participants, and added that more German insurers may do the same.

The changes to taxation rules planned by Germany's Social Democratic/Green coalition Government focus on the treatment of insurers' loss reserves, which Herr Schreiber said could cost German non-life insurers 30 per cent of their equity, or the equivalent of four years of profits. According to Germany's insurance federation, the country's insurers had DM150 billion invested in German government bonds out of a total of DM1.448 billion of investments at the end of last September.

Forte loan facility

SIR ROCCO FORTE has negotiated a £50 million loan facility from Bank of Scotland to fund his new hotel company's ambitious expansion plans. Sir Rocco has taken out the 20-year loan through Sir Rocco Forte and Family Plc, set up in the wake of Granada's hostile takeover of Forte in 1996. "This facility gives us the firepower to continue the growth which has seen us build a portfolio of eight luxury hotel projects during our first two years," Sir Rocco said yesterday. His most recent projects are a 170-room hotel in Manchester and a 197-room property in Berlin.

Daimler accelerates

DAIMLERCHRYSLER, the German-American car group, made an £8.15 billion (£5.6 billion) pre-tax profit in its first year as a merged entity — a 32 per cent rise on the pro-forma combined profits of the two carmakers in 1997. However, net profits before exceptional items, including the £685 million cost of the merger, fell from £6.5 billion in 1997 to £4.8 billion. Revenues rose from £117.6 million to £131.8 billion, an increase of 12 per cent. DaimlerChrysler is weighing up whether to buy a stake in Nissan, the struggling Japanese carmaker.

Pifco dips on sales

PIFCO, the small electrical appliances company, said that sales in December and January were disappointing. "The UK consumer remains cautious, despite interest rate falls," said Michael Webber, chairman. In the six months to October 31, the difficult conditions, particularly in export markets, meant that pre-tax profit edged down from £2.1 million to £2 million as sales fell from £24.2 million to £21.4 million. Earnings per share fell from 9.9p to 9.3p, but Pifco is maintaining its interim dividend at 3p. Its shares closed down 8.5p at 132.5p.

London Bridge ahead

LONDON BRIDGE SOFTWARE, the credit risk management software specialist, reported a near-doubling in sales and profits last year and said that the outlook was good, with further improvement from recent acquisitions. The company reported full-year pre-tax profits of £7.3 million on sales of £22.3 million. The company said that the advent of the single currency will increase demand for new management systems. The total dividend is up 50 per cent to 4.5p. Yesterday, the shares were up 75p to £17.90.

QSP shares soar

SHARES in Quality Software Products soared 15 per cent yesterday after the company announced the launch of two products that it said would significantly improve company budget forecasting and employee expense-claim processes. The financial software products will be available through organisations' intranet facilities and are the result of a new strategic partnership with Extensity, a Californian software house. QSP shares were up 60p at 45.5p.

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CHANGING TIMES

Wanted: a team of politicians with time on their hands, an appetite for hard work and an interest in the world of finance. The number of potential candidates, probably not high to begin with, will inevitably be further reduced by the added stipulation that the interest in matters financial should not be tainted by any involvement with financial institutions.

Perhaps it is the shortage of possible members that has delayed the establishment of the parliamentary committee due to scrutinise the Bill set to revolutionise financial regulation in Britain. But if it does not get down to business very soon, the members will find themselves putting in some long sessions if there is to be any hope of it finishing its work by the end of April.

The Financial Services Authority is a reality, now ensconced in its Canary Wharf tower, but it regulates only with borrowed powers, those conferred on the organisations it has now gathered under its umbrella. The FSA needs the Financial Services and Markets Bill to hit the statute books before it can become a fully fledged super regulator. That is scheduled to happen next year but steering this intensely complicated and controversial Bill through the legislative process will be a demanding task. Letting a parliamentary joint committee take a close look at the Bill

first could streamline proceedings but much will depend on the calibre of the committee and, in particular, its chairman.

A cross-bench peer is expected to be appointed to this crucial task. One name being suggested is that of Lord Marsh. The former Labour Minister left the Commons in 1975 to become chairman of British Rail but his credentials for casting a careful eye over the future of financial regulation include a spell as chairman of the Laurentian financial group. More recently, Lord Marsh popped up as the chairman of Business for Sterling, the lobby group determined to preserve the pound. He has now handed that task to Rodney Leach, although retaining an involvement as president of the campaign. That would probably not be too time consuming to prevent him taking on the chairmanship of the parliamentary committee. And someone has to do it.

Despite some changes that have already been made to the Bill, there are still fears in some quarters that the powers being proposed for the FSA could be in contravention of European provisions on human rights. The new regulator will have powers to

levy unlimited fines in certain cases. In the wake of the personal pensions scandal, there will be some parliamentarians who think that such powers may well be necessary. The chairman of the FSA, Howard Davies, does not believe that the Bill would create a monster. But if the joint committee indicated real concerns, then the legislation could be gently reshaped without jeopardising the entire.

More good people write for the shelf

Almost everyone in business would like some change in company law. The trouble is that niggling rules bore politicians too. It is bad enough being faced with lengthy debates on financial regulation but the auditing requirements made of tiny companies do not

allow MPs leaping to their feet demanding action. Even fairly un-

Marsh with solid foundation

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

contentious matters raised decades ago never reach the statute book unless they can be slipped into some Bill required to put EU directives into UK law.

Not surprisingly, issues accumulate on the shelf until their combined weight triggers some vast set-piece inquiry. Voluminous reports full of detailed proposals are bound to follow. Then comes total inaction. The all-embracing review set up by Margaret Beckett in her DTI days was meant to satisfy trendy demands for company law to be rewritten.

The agenda was to shrink shareholders' rights in favour of employees, the Community and any others who could claim the recently fashionable but already forgotten status of stakeholder. It was also meant to frighten companies into obeying the voluntary corporate governance codes.

The Steering Group dutifully devotes a short chapter of its 214 page initial consultation document to stakeholder matters. The

outcome is a series of interesting questions for student essays, that can be left to hang in the ether.

Almost inevitably, given the massive lobby and saintly virtue of small businesses, their complaints attract far more support. Blinded by tears of admiration, like so many previous committees, this one would clearly prefer to remove all transparency from their affairs, if Brussels would allow. Falling that, company law should be rewritten for small firms, with big companies being added on the end.

This reversal of roles sounds attractive but it reverses history. Company Law was set up for joint stock companies. Small firms just jumped on the limited liability bandwagon. Most companies should not exist. If a new way can be found of limiting risk for new businesses without cutting them off from credit, fine.

Otherwise, the review should concentrate on two practical problems. The first is how to

achieve rolling reform of company law in bite-sized chunks. The equivalent of the Accounting Standards Board would fit the bill. The second is how to lobby to get the right EU directives, and then ensure they lapse after 20 years instead of straitjacketing our economies for ever.

Two hats thrown into the Bullring

Birmingham can only be a better place after the attentions of two of the country's largest property companies. That Land Securities and Hammerson are joining forces to redevelop the city centre should be applauded. It is a sensible solution to a stand-off that had seen them both planning major schemes which, in competition, would have been chasing the same tenants. Co-operation is an adult solution to the problem. It should also streamline marketing costs.

Whether central Birmingham really can become the continental-looking piazza of the artist's impression is another matter. But the two developers would find it difficult to produce anything less lovely than the Bull-

ring Centre, a slum almost from the day the builders left.

Land Securities has long been committed to town centre developments, largely eschewing the rush to out-of-town development. Current chief executive Ian Henderson insists that he shares his predecessors' convictions. Hammerson, however, was responsible for the first major out-of-town shopping centre, at Brent Cross. With enormous foresight, the company took a former dog racing track and turned it into a shopping mecca.

Now the Government is insisting that there will be no more such schemes, so ambitious developers have no choice but to return to the city centres. The Birmingham scheme could become a blueprint for future inner city partnerships.

Eastern promise

WHILE interest-rate sensitive savers have been flocking to Egg, there are still plenty of people prepared to ignore the rate of interest on a loan. Provident Financial charges customers up to 55p per £100 borrowed, so it is probably not surprising if customers are defaulting on debts and pushing up provisions. But there is no shortage of customers. As countries in the former Eastern bloc discover the joys of capitalism, they are learning the costs of borrowing. Provident agents have marched into the Czech Republic and Poland.

Oil price fall sees Lasmo cut back production target

By CARL MORTIFIED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

LASMO has cut back its oil production targets after a large reduction in spending on the company by the depressed oil price.

The oil explorer, which yesterday confirmed it was still in merger talks with rival Enterprise Oil, intends to halve its annual drilling budget to £55 million and plans to reduce its development spending in Venezuela from \$380 million (£237 million) to \$200 million.

Joe Darby, chief executive, said that the spending cutback will reduce Lasmo's target oil output for 2001 by up to 30,000 barrels per day from a current forecast of 250,000 bpd. At the same time the company has taken a £360 million write-down against the value of its oil producing assets, mainly in the North Sea and Indonesia.

Striking budgets are part of a strategy to make sure the group is cash neutral after a year in which Lasmo's £46 million profit in 1997 was transformed into an equivalent loss before the asset write-down.

Mr Darby said: "We are tar-

getting to be profitable in 1999 at a Brent price of above \$12 per barrel, \$3 lower than our 1998 break-even price." For every dollar move in the oil price, Lasmo experiences a \$20 million gain or loss to its cashflow.

Lasmo's chief executive would not comment on the progress of the Enterprise talks but said that he expected them to reach a conclusion next month. He said that other options were being considered.

Lasmo's asset write-downs comprise a £165 million hit to 11 North Sea fields and a £111 million write-off at Sanga Sangga, Lasmo's Indonesian liquefied natural gas project, where the gas contract is linked to the oil price.

A further £84 million has been written off Dacron, the Venezuela heavy oil investment. Paul Murray, finance director, said that reduced spending would not affect the company's production target as the field is producing more oil and less water than anticipated.

Lasmo is maintaining the dividend at 2.3p per share.

erred: "We are looking at alliances with other companies."

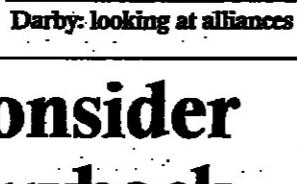
He indicated that alliances might be strategic tie-ups in a particular region rather than a full merger. Oil companies are queuing up to gain access to the low-cost onshore oilfields in Opec countries and Lasmo is looking at partnerships that might improve access to the Middle East.

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SB to consider share buyback

By PAUL DURMAN

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM, which is set to receive more than £1 billion from its recently announced disposals, is to seek shareholder approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares.

The proceeds from selling diversified pharmaceutical services and clinical laboratories, two US businesses, will help to clear the £1.45 billion of debt with which the pharmaceuticals group ended 1998.

SB said it was not committed to buying back its shares but it wanted to have as much flexibility as possible. A spokesman said: "Our priority is to invest in the business.

But if it is deemed appropriate, then the shares will be bought back."

Most share buybacks are made by poorly rated companies and by those such as banks that have accumulated excess capital.

With its shares trading at almost 45 times last year's earnings, it would be unusual for SB to opt for a buyback – particularly since pharmaceutical companies are under continual pressure to invest more in new drug development.

The company will seek the shareholder authority at its annual meeting.

Yesterday its shares fell 35p to 89p.

Liffe votes for share shake-up

LIFFE, the London futures and options exchange, took its first steps towards a stock market flotation when plans to reorganise the share structure of the organisation were voted through by members unanimously.

The move, cleared at an extraordinary meeting yesterday, splits shareholdings from the right to trade on Liffe.

Brian Williamson, the Liffe chairman said: "This is a vital step towards becoming a commercial, customer-driven business that delivers value to shareholders."

"In future, the exchange will seek to achieve profits and as appropriate pay dividends as appropriate."

Barclays Bank PLC

With effective from 1st March 1999 lending interest rates have been decreased as follows:

	New Rate	Old Rate
Barclays Executive Loan under £15,000	12.75% p.a.	13.25% p.a.
Over £15,000	12.25% p.a.	13.25% p.a.

BARCLAYS

Barclays Bank PLC, Reg. No. 1026167 Registered Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH

Eidos zaps early loss

THE enduring popularity of Lara Croft, heroine of *Tomb Raider* computer games, has helped Eidos to achieve another set of record Christmas trading profits. The computer games company said it made a profit of £51.3 million (£31.3 million) in 1998's last quarter.

This offset earlier losses to leave nine-month profits at £32.4 million, against £13 million last time. Eidos launched 17 games in the period, including *Final Fantasy IV*.

However, it took a £3 million hit to cover a decline in shares in ASA, a Norwegian optical cable company in which it has a 15 per cent stake.

Earnings per share in the nine months to December 31, were 112.3p (50.2p). The shares fell 20p to £14.37/p.

Arjo feels the pinch

MARGIN pressure in the paper and packaging industry has restricted Arjo Wiggins Appleton to a pre-tax profit of £21 million in 1998, down 2.2 per cent (Paul Armstrong writes).

Ken Minton, the chairman, said he did not expect Arjo's markets to improve, although the company's recent restructure was likely to bring benefits later in the year. A final dividend of

5.4p was declared, which takes the year's payout to 8.5p, compared with 8p last year.

Arjo has been split into three separate divisions, and the board is considering various options, including a sale or a flotation.

The recent restructure also saw the departure of Philippe Beylier, the company's chief executive.

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Dixons surges on talk of German Net link-up

SHARES of Dixons, the high street retailer, surged to yet another new high with a rise of 22½p at £11.85p. The price has come up from the 797½p level, so far, this year.

Dealers say the company is milking its new "Internet lab" for all it is worth. The group's own Internet service provider, Freeserve, has now attracted more than one million subscribers and could provide a big boost to profits in years to come.

Claims that Freeserve is about to link up with a similar service offered by Bertelsmann, the German publisher, was behind yesterday's rise.

It certainly excited the likes of Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, which rates the shares a "buy" and has raised its target price from £11 to £13.

Rival broker Charterhouse Tilney takes a more cautious view of events after a meeting with the company.

It believes the shares are up with events and says Dixons may be sacrificing margins in order to boost sales. This may lead to a profits downgrading.

Overnight losses on Wall Street and another unconvincing start to trading for the Dow Jones industrial average yesterday brought London's record-breaking run to a shuddering halt.

The FTSE 100 index closed 10.1 down at 6,206.5 as a total of 1.14 billion shares changed hands. By contrast, the FTSE 250 index closed 5.9 up at 5,236.1.

Despite the setback for shares, there was little selling pressure reported and brokers are confident that sheer weight of money will continue to drive prices higher in the short term.

A combination of profit-taking and general absence of support left prices closing just above their worst levels of the day.

Loss-making Orange, dived 51½p to 907p after Hutchison Whampoa reduced its stake in the mobile-phone operator



Hans Snook saw Orange shares fall 51½p after Hutchison Whampoa reduced its stake in the mobile-phone operator

Elsewhere among the leaders, Compass Group extended yesterday's gains with a rise of 26½p at 769½p on the back of some encouraging words to shareholders at the annual meeting. BTR Siebe was also a firm market, adding 10p at 265½p as the pound continued to lose ground against the dollar.

Brokers found little to cheer about in this week's results

from Cadbury Schweppes, which dipped back below the £10 level to finish 2½p lower at 972½p. There was disappointment about the group's refusal to conduct a share buy-back and concern about a slow start to trading in the current year. Deutsche Bank has cut its rating for the shares from "neutral" to "underperform". It has set a target price of 900p.

RJB Mining celebrated the possibility of averting damaging industrial action with a rise of 5p at 67½p. The Union of Democratic Mineworkers has said it will recommend a revised offer worth 3.1 per cent to its members.

Regent Inns, which is discussing a nil-premium merger with SFI Group, shed 4p to 182½p as hopes of a bid from Bass evaporated. The company is now expected to proceed with the SFI merger and final details could be announced next month. SFI eased up to 168½p, while Bass stood out with a rise of 25p at 837½p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, recommended the shares.

AIM-listed Methven was unmoved at 31½p as the wife of chairman Andrew Swanson picked up 10,000 shares at 33p. It takes his family's holding to 2.62 million, or 17.89 per cent.

Quality Software was one of the day's best performers, climbing 55½p to 450p after confirmation that the group will be launching two new intranet products next week.

A downbeat trading statement took its toll of Card Clear, down 3p at 36p. The company said it was conducting a review of strategy, organisation structure and marketing.

Electronic Boutique fell 4p to 79½p as brokers continued to ponder the group's proposed acquisition of Game, 12p better at 142½p. City speculators say this may not be the end of the story as far as Electronic Boutique is concerned.

□ GILT-EDGE? Further losses in US treasury bonds overnight and a stronger than expected CBI industrial trends survey sent bond prices in London lower. Losses at the longer end stretched to almost £2.

Dealers reported little real weight of selling, but a general absence of support.

In the future pit, the March series of the long gilt finished £1.12 down at £116.55, after briefly touching £116.25. But trading conditions generally proved thin with just 25,000 contracts completed. Among conventional stocks, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell 1.35 to £147.18, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 shed 4p at £106.79.

□ NEW YORK Shares were sharply lower in morning trade on fears of an imminent rise in long-term interest rates. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 126.36 at 9,273.31.

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But Roman Cizikay at Merrill Lynch, the broker, reckons market fears have been overdone. Worries about margins are not new.

"Everyone knows that David Prosser has no qualms about balancing volume against margin in order to grab market share."

Prices across the sector may fall further but bid talk — centring on acquisitive banks or domestic or European insurers — will limit the downside, he adds.



Legal & General finished nursing a loss of 109½p at 789p, while Norwich Union, reporting next week, ended 24½p down at 448½p. Others to give up ground included Prudential, down 34½p to 854½p. United Assurance 16½p to 543½p, af-

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 9,273.31 (-16.38)

S&P Composite 1,231.37 (-22.04)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 14,470.45 (+11.00)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 9,958.07 (-19.50)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index 534.51 (-4.30)

Sydney:

ASX 2,904.8 (-25.7)

Frankfurt:

DAX 6,958.58 (-103.73)

Singapore:

SGX 1,410.22 (-0.76)

Brussels:

BEL20 3,040.84 (-0.41)

Paris:

CAC-40 4,152.55 (-51.14)

Zurich:

SIX Gen 1,363.80 (-18.20)

London:

FT 30 3,771.4 (-21.7)

FTSE 100 6,026.5 (-101.1)

FTSE 250 5,226.1 (+4.59)

FTSE 500 2,204.3 (-40.1)

FTSE All-Share 1,093.5 (-10.1)

FTSE Mid-All Share 527.58 (-31.61)

FTSE Small 1,155.55 (-9.92)

FTSE 100 113.90 (-1.07)

FTSE 250 20.60 (-0.4)

FTSE 500 10.60 (+0.0053)

FTSE 1000 1,087.50 (+0.0053)

FTSE 250 101.00 (+0.0053)

FTSE 500 10.00 (+0.0053)

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Ricardo confident of growth

Ricardo Group, the automotive engineering consultancy, expects to maintain steady growth in the second half after reporting a 17 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.5 million for the six months to December 31.

Earnings rose 24 per cent to 6.7p a share and the interim dividend rises to 2.3p (2.2p). The shares rose 11p to a record 241p.

The company said it had seen continuing growth in its UK business, while US losses were reduced. Rodney Westhead, chief executive, said it was looking to further develop Germany.

County sells hotels

Regal Hotel Group will today announce that its County Hotels joint venture has sold two non-core hotels for £4 million. The 66-room County Hotel in Southampton and 50-room County Hotel in Ware, Hertfordshire, have been bought by MSI, an independent hotel group.

Stakis opening

Stakis, the hotel and gaming group that has accepted a £15 million takeover from Ladbrokes yesterday opened what is claimed to be the UK's biggest casino outside London. The Stakis Westgate Casino in Leeds has 19 gaming tables.

US construction helps Hanson beat forecasts

By ROBERT COLE
CITY CORRESPONDENT

A BIG uplift from North American operations has helped Hanson, the aggregates supplier, to report better than expected underlying annual profits.

Hanson, the remnant of the group of the same name that was split into four parts two years ago, made pre-tax profits, before exceptional items, of £265 million in the 12 months to 31 December, up 18 per cent on 1997. Strong demand from the still healthy US economy fuelled the advance, but the company has also improved profit margins.

Andrew Dougal, chief executive, said: "Construction activity has continued at a high level throughout our US markets, assisted by mild weather in the fourth quarter in the Midwest and North East. The outlook for building materials remains good."

Saying that prospects overall are positive for 1999, he gave warning that the outlook for UK volumes is flat.

Trading profits from Hanson's North American operations, which are predominantly in aggregates, rose 45 per cent to £128 million. Operating profits from the European aggregates business rose 13 per cent. Hanson Bricks, another European business, saw profit-



Jonathan Nicholls, left, Hanson's finance director, and Andrew Dougal, chief executive
its slip back from £37.8 million to £36 million.
While underlying profits of Hanson improved, a slew of exceptional items confused the overall pre-tax profits picture. Costs had an effect in 1998, but big credits flattered the comparable numbers. The net effect was headline pre-tax profits slumping from £609 million to £563 million. Hanson has net cash of £8 million and generated E66 million on acquisitions in 1998. Mr Dougal suggested that similar sums would be spent in the current year. He said that the group's preference was to make a number of smaller purchases rather than opt for one large deal. He said: "The priority for acquisitions is to develop the company's presence in regional markets."

Hanson has net cash of £8 million and generated E66

million of trading cashflow in the year. It expects to repeat that performance this year.

Earnings per share before exceptional items rose from 29p to 34.7p, although headline earnings fell from 88.1p to 54.5p. Hanson is paying a final dividend of 8.75p, against 8p last time, making a total of 12.75p, up 0.25 per cent.

Tempus, page 34

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Account	Excluding Bonus				Including Bonus*			
	New	Previous	New	Previous	New	Previous	New	Previous
Balance	Gross/ AER p.a.%	Monthly Gross %						
High Return TESSA Issue 2	6.00	-	6.50	-	-	-	-	-
High Return 2 Feeder	6.00	-	6.50	-	-	-	-	-
Privilege Follow-up TESSA*	5.30	-	5.80	-	6.15	-	6.65	-
Preference Follow-up TESSA*	£3,000+	5.30	5.80	-	6.05	-	6.55	-
KidZone*	6.25	-	6.35	-	-	-	-	-
First Choice*	6.50	-	6.75	-	-	-	-	-
5.00+	1.60	-	1.60	-	2.35	-	2.35	-
2.50+	1.85	-	2.35	-	2.60	-	3.10	-
£5,000+	2.10	-	2.60	-	2.65	-	3.25	-
£10,000+	2.45	-	2.95	-	3.20	-	3.70	-
£25,000+	2.60	-	3.10	-	3.35	-	3.85	-
£1,000+	2.75	-	3.25	-	3.75	3.72	4.25	4.20
£5,000+	3.25	-	3.75	3.69	4.25	4.20	4.75	4.69
£10,000+	3.50	-	4.00	4.31	4.90	4.83	5.40	5.31
£25,000+	4.00	-	4.50	4.41	5.00	4.93	5.50	5.41
£50,000+	4.10	-	4.60	4.51	5.10	5.03	5.60	5.51
£100,000+	4.35	-	4.27	4.85	4.75	5.35	5.27	5.75
£1,000+	4.15	-	4.07	4.65	4.55	4.90	4.82	5.30
£5,000+	4.40	-	4.31	4.70	5.15	5.06	5.65	5.54
£20,000+	4.60	-	4.51	5.10	4.98	5.35	5.26	5.73
£50,000+	4.80	-	4.70	5.30	5.18	5.55	5.45	5.93
£100,000+	4.90	-	4.79	5.40	5.27	5.65	5.54	6.02
Mutual Bond	5.75	-	5.25	-	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	5.20	-	5.80	-	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	5.45	-	5.95	-	-	-	-	-
£10+	2.50	-	2.45	-	2.25	-	2.10	-
£50+	1.60	-	2.10	-	2.60	-	3.10	-
£5,000+	1.85	-	2.35	-	2.85	-	3.35	-
£10,000+	2.25	-	2.75	-	3.25	-	3.75	-
£25,000+	2.40	-	2.90	-	3.40	-	3.90	-
One Month Notice*	2.10	-	2.08	2.60	2.57	-	-	-
£2,500+	2.70	-	2.28	2.80	2.76	-	-	-
£10,000+	2.65	-	2.62	3.15	3.10	-	-	-
£25,000+	2.95	-	2.91	3.45	3.40	-	-	-
Special Asset	3.40	-	3.35	3.90	3.83	-	-	-
£2,500+	3.05	-	3.01	3.55	3.49	-	-	-
£5,000+	3.40	-	3.35	3.90	3.83	-	-	-
£10,000+	4.00	-	3.93	4.50	4.41	-	-	-
£20,000+	4.10	-	4.03	4.60	4.51	-	-	-
Premier Deposit**	4.20	-	4.12	4.70	4.60	-	-	-
£20,000+	4.40	-	4.31	4.90	4.79	-	-	-
£1+	0.25	-	0.25	-	-	-	-	-
£10+	1.15	-	1.15	-	-	-	-	-
£25,000+	2.65	-	2.65	-	-	-	-	-
£50,000+	3.35	-	3.35	-	-	-	-	-

Accounts no longer available to new investors.

Timesaver	£11 (Base Rate)	0.25	-	0.25	-	-	-	-
	£100+	0.40	-	0.40	-	-	-	-
	£500+	0.60	-	0.60	-	-	-	-
	£2,500+	0.90	-	0.90	-	-	-	-
	£10,000+	1.15	-	1.15	-	-	-	-
	£25,000+	1.60	-	1.60	-	-	-	-
Classic TESSA Issue 2	6.00	-	6.50	-	-	-	-	-
Matured TESSAs and Feeders	3.00	-	3.00	-	-	-	-	-
Maturity Bond Issue 2 & 3	5.55	5.41	6.05	5.89	-	-	-	-
£25,000+	5.75	5.60	6.25	6.08	-	-	-	-
Monthly Saver Plus®	2.50	-	2.45	-	2.25	-	-	-
Tracker Bond	5.50	5.37	6.00	5.84	-	-	-	-
Loyalty Bond	£100+	7.50	7.25	7.50	7.25	-	-	-

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Direct Preference TESSA	£3,000+	5.30	-	5.80	-	6.05	-	6.55	-
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	£10,000+	5.15	5.03	5.65	5.51	-	-	-	-
	£25,000+	5.25	5.13	5.75	5.60	-	-	-	-
Direct Notice (Limited Edition)	£1,000+	5.10	-	5.65	-	-	-	-	-
	£10,000+	5.25	5.13	5.75	5.60				

Small firm legal burden to be eased

Christine Buckley
company law reform



SUNDAY TIMES

**PO
BELI**

29

SUNDAY TIMES

Raise tobacco taxes, increase crime and lose revenue? Or cut taxes, cut crime and raise extra revenue? That is the choice that will face the Chancellor this year. If he rejects the need to cut taxes the consequences are simple and clear. Cigarette distribution will continue to fall into the hands of criminals. These gangs of smugglers will sell more and more to anyone who will buy and continue to sell to under-16s. They will also deprive our Government of even more than the £1.5 billion that is currently lost in revenue today at least one cigarette in seven avoids UK tax. So do three in four packs of rolling tobacco. Only six years ago virtually none did. With weak border controls and increasing profit margins the criminal business will keep growing.

**WARNING: FROM TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS
TO H.M. GOVERNMENT.**

John Lewis

Tottenham kicks out future dividends

By ROBERT LEA

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR, the resurgent North London football club chasing potentially lucrative European action next year, told shareholders yesterday that they will not be getting any dividends for the foreseeable future.

Football's longest stock market quoted company, 41 per cent owned by the electronics multimillionaire Alan Sugar, said it would concentrate instead on reinvesting cash into the business in a bid to crank up its serially underperforming share price.

In the last financial year Spurs paid a total dividend of 0.75p, cut from 1p, which amounted to a payout of just 2 per cent.

Mr Sedgwick, said Spurs' second-half results should be better than usual because of the club's runs in both the FA Cup and Worthington Cup. □ Sunderland, the trail-blazing leader of football's Nationwide first division, made pre-tax profits after player transfer costs of £435,000, a fall of 30 per cent, in the six months to November 30. Turnover rose 22 per cent to £9.8 million, boosted by average gates at the Stadium of Light of nearly 38,000, the fourth-best home gates in English football.

□ Preston North End, the AIM-listed, promotion-chasing second division football club, made interim losses of £421,000, similarly to the previous year, in the six months to December 31.

David Ginola, the Spurs winger

Sport, page 57

US block sends Glaxo tumbling

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Glaxo Wellcome tumbled 4 per cent yesterday after US marketing approval for the company's new influenza treatment was unexpectedly blocked.

An advisory committee to the US Food and Drug Administration voted 14-3 against recommending Relenza for approval because of doubts about the drug's effectiveness. Glaxo Wellcome has not abandoned hope of winning FDA approval, but its chances look slim.

Nigel Barnes, analyst at Merrill Lynch, said: "It's a significant setback. In trying to overturn a 14-3 vote, [Glaxo] may be

swimming in treacle." The shares fell 82p to £20.66.

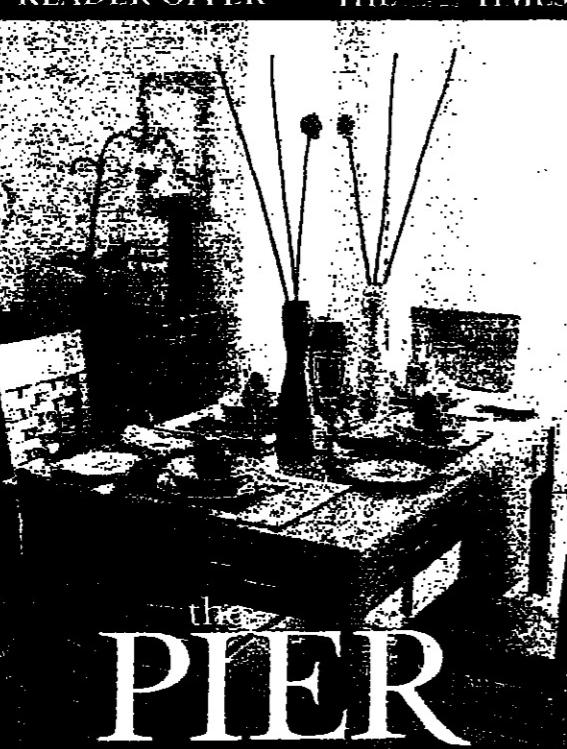
Glaxo received its first European approval for Relenza two weeks ago. The drug was forecast to have annual sales of up to £375 million by 2002.

Claims that Relenza shortened recovery times by up to two and a half days were not borne out by the 770-patient US trial, which was much larger than the studies conducted in Europe and Australia.

The setback caused a 52 per cent collapse in the share price of Biota Holdings, the Australian biotechnology company that originally developed Relenza.

READER OFFER

THE TIMES



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TOKEN COLLECT

CHANGING TIMES

Sarah Cunningham on Kingfisher's move out of town

The wonder of Woolies

When the first large out-of-town Woolworths opens its doors at Kinnaird on the outskirts of Edinburgh later this year, customers will find something that bears little resemblance to the usual high street Woolies.

The store will be three times as large as the largest existing Woolworths. Also, it will bring together merchandise from all the other UK stores within the Kingfisher group — B&Q, Comet and Superdrug. This means that people will be able to get toys, children's clothes, videos, televisions, DIY equipment and toiletries from one store. There are plans for the store to incorporate a Burger King outlet as well.

Mr Sedgwick, said Spurs' second-half results should be better than usual because of the club's runs in both the FA Cup and Worthington Cup. □ Sunderland, the trail-blazing leader of football's Nationwide first division, made pre-tax profits after player transfer costs of £435,000, a fall of 30 per cent, in the six months to November 30. Turnover rose 22 per cent to £9.8 million, boosted by average gates at the Stadium of Light of nearly 38,000, the fourth-best home gates in English football.

□ Preston North End, the AIM-listed, promotion-chasing second division football club, made interim losses of £421,000, similarly to the previous year, in the six months to December 31.



Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy is keen that the new store should serve all home and family needs

home and family needs under the one roof.

Last year Kingfisher announced it intended to open about 50 new branches of Woolworths. Considering that it already has nearly 800 stores, this is quite ambitious. Most of the new stores are likely to be similar to those found in the high street already. 15-20,000 sq ft in size. However, the company does

intend to develop some larger branches, such as the one at Kinnaird. Kingfisher is in talks with property developers about finding new sites, although difficulties over planning permission are bound to arise. The Kinnaird store, which the company insists is experimental, has the advantage of being on the site of an old, redundant B&Q. Large discount stores do

not have a great history in the UK and is hoping to expand, although planning laws mean it is likely to happen only slowly. Costco also sells food. Asda — which is also seen as possible UK target for Wal-Mart — and Kingfisher talked briefly of a merger last year, and the idea has never entirely gone away. Although there will be no food on offer, a visit to Kinnaird, once the store is open, will give a flavour of what the two might have come up with.

Boeing to consider closures

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

BOEING has indicated that it may close down a number of its airline production lines in a major shake-up because 10 per cent of its equity is invested in loss-making activities.

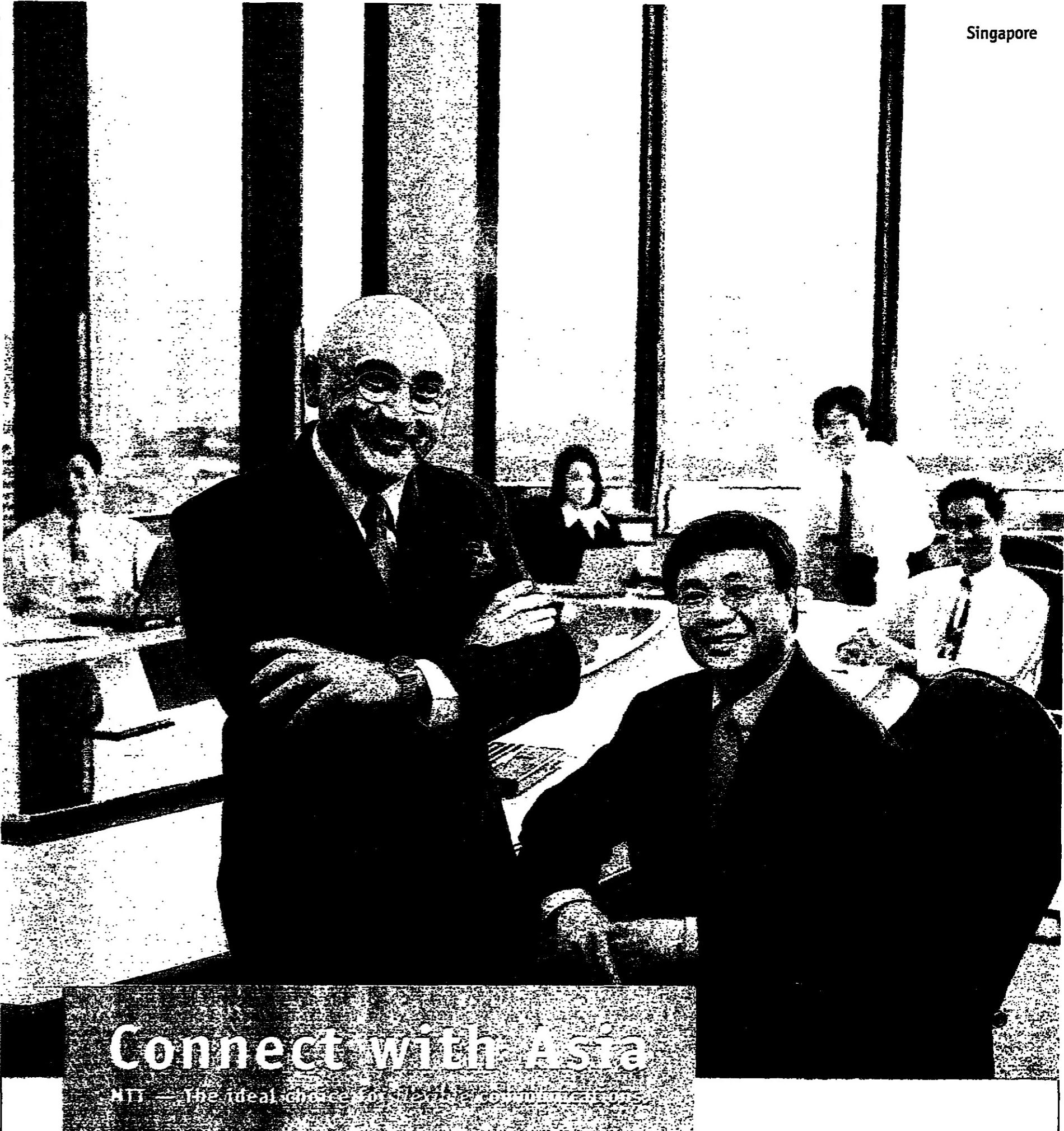
Phil Condit, Boeing chairman, said: "There are no sacred cows. Every single programme we've got is under scrutiny."

The move, to be supervised by Deborah Hopkins, the new finance director, is aimed at stemming the downward slide of the world's biggest aerospace group after a production shutdown 18 months ago.

Ms Hopkins said the MDII aircraft had been taken out of production because its costs were not matched by market potential. She said: "We will fix or eliminate any programmes that are not creating value. In future, there will be zero tolerance of value destruction."

Ms Hopkins was recently hired from General Motors to boost Boeing's credibility with investors. After the dramatic share price decline last year, some shareholders blamed Boeing's top executives for the production bottlenecks.

Singapore

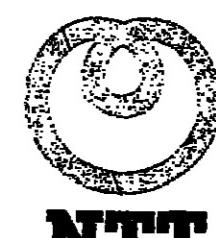


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JPMorgan Chase

Equities come off highs

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	P/E
546	365	355	Afford Beverage	67.0	7.7	-1.5	12.5
412	279	270	Bell's Pilsner (B7)	21.0	1.8	-1.5	12.5
765	525	515	Bell's Lager	21.0	1.8	-1.5	12.5
559	354	345	Bell's Malt Liquor	21.0	1.8	-1.5	12.5
559	354	345	Bell's Microbrewery	21.0	1.8	-1.5	12.5

BANKS

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	P/E
1615	1059	1029	ABN-AMRO	15.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
1252	852	822	Ammerman & Lake	12.0	1.2	-1.5	12.5
1252	852	822	Alfred Holt	12.0	1.2	-1.5	12.5
1252	852	822	Alfred Holt	12.0	1.2	-1.5	12.5
1252	852	822	Alfred Holt	12.0	1.2	-1.5	12.5

BREWERY'S, PUBS & REST

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	P/E
1165	225	215	Am. Great Brit	20.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
1165	225	215	Am. Great Brit	20.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
1165	225	215	Am. Great Brit	20.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
1165	225	215	Am. Great Brit	20.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
1165	225	215	Am. Great Brit	20.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5

BUILDING MATERIALS

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	P/E
709	407	400	Abingdon Inds	20.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
160	150	145	Abingdon Inds	20.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
160	150	145	Abingdon Inds	20.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
160	150	145	Abingdon Inds	20.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
160	150	145	Abingdon Inds	20.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5

CHEMICALS

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	P/E
191	57	56	Abreco Inds	2.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
122	77	76	Acetate Ind	2.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
122	77	76	Acetate Ind	2.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
122	77	76	Acetate Ind	2.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
122	77	76	Acetate Ind	2.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5

CONSTRUCTION

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	P/E
159	159	158	ACF Int'l	5.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
152	152	151	Adbury	5.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
152	152	151	Adbury	5.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
152	152	151	Adbury	5.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5
152	152	151	Adbury	5.0	1.5	-1.5	12.5

DISTRIBUTORS

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	P/E
151	151	150	Adrian Co Spd	1.7	1.7	-1.5	12.5
145	145	144	Adrian & Harry	1.45	1.37	-1.5	12.5
145	145	144	Adrian & Harry	1.45	1.37	-1.5	12.5
145	145	144	Adrian & Harry	1.45	1.37	-1.5	12.5
145	145	144	Adrian & Harry	1.45	1.37	-1.5	12.5

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	P/E
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FOOD MANUFACTURERS

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	P/E
320	320	315	AGF	15.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
320	320	315	AGF (Ex Div)	15.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
320	320	315	AGF (Ex Div)	15.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
320	320	315	AGF (Ex Div)	15.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	P/E
320	320	315	AGF	15.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
320	320	315	AGF (Ex Div)	15.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
320	320	315	AGF (Ex Div)	15.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
320	320	315	AGF (Ex Div)	15.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5

ELECTRICITY

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	P/E
320	320	315	AGF	15.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
320	320	315	AGF (Ex Div)	15.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
320	320	315	AGF (Ex Div)	15.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5
320	320	315	AGF (Ex Div)	15.0	2.0	-1.5	12.5

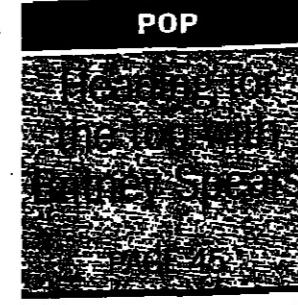
HEALTHCARE



THEATRE

Macbeth
at the Arts
Theatre

ARTS



POP

Ready and willing

What sets English Touring Opera apart from all those other small-scale companies popping up like mushrooms after a storm is the quality of preparation. None of the singers in ETO's new production of Verdi's *Macbeth* at the Arts Theatre is heading straight for La Scala (yet), the orchestra numbers just 27 and the chorus 14, but you know that just about everyone on or off the stage is performing to the very height of his or her capability.

The music director, Andrew Greenwood, has a natural feel for early Verdi, for the music's swagger and dash as well as its occasional inwardness. He and his band relish the special "colour" of this score, the shrieking piccolos, lowering low woodwind, howling brass,

OPERA

Macbeth
at the Arts
Theatre

and he declines to show any embarrassment at the jaunier moments: when Verdi's witches sing about the weather, they can sound dangerously like General Stanley's daughters. Greenwood shrugs this off, goes for it, and judges the big-boned climaxes perfectly. On its own terms this is a thrilling musical performance.

Most importantly, Greenwood is always considerate of his singers, coaxing them into phrasing musically and imaginatively. Anthony Marber (*Macbeth*) has a light, high baritone but he was never tempted to force. Instead he exploited his feel for long, Italianate line and for the meaning of words (Andrew Porter's translation is used). Sarah Rhodes' Lady is simply fearless in her assault on runs, coloratura and top notes, and just as impressive in the quieter moments.

She, Marber and Greenwood handle the *Murder Duet* with great insight, but just how far a soprano should come off the centre of the notes in the *Sleepwalking Scene* in the interests of dramatic verisimilitude is a matter for debate. Henry Waddington is a decent, stolid Banquo, but some one might remind the two tenors that less noise can pay dividends even in early Verdi.

Plain sets (Nathalie Gibbs), operatic-medieval costumes (Dinah Collin) — it all looks a bit village-hally, and sometimes sounds it as well. The producer, Robert Chevara, is fine when dealing with the principals but less sure with crowds and apparitions. Musically, though, audiences on ETO's tour are in for a treat.

RODNEY MILNES

Finland's Lahti Symphony Orchestra is bringing Sibelius to Birmingham. John Allison profiles a remarkable band



In a field of its own: the Lahti Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä's leadership is celebrating its 50th birthday with the construction of a brand-new lakeside concert hall in its native Finland

Tundra rolls in from the East

It is a common enough expression, but coming from a Finn it carries extra meaning: Osmo Vänskä talks of a "snowball effect" when describing the phenomenal story of the Lahti Symphony Orchestra. There can hardly be a more appropriate way of recounting what has happened in this quiet Finnish city over the past decade.

Though the orchestra has become famous through its series of ground-breaking and award-winning Sibelius recordings on the BIS label, few outside Finland have heard it live. But it takes another step towards international recognition this weekend with a British debut: a weekend of Sibelius concerts in Birmingham.

This should be a significant year for the Lahti Symphony Orchestra. Apart from celebrating its 50th birthday, it is also due to move into a brand new concert hall. Construction is being supported, as ever in Finland, by generous funding, but approval from the city council came by an extremely narrow margin, as Lahti's high unemployment rate means many other priorities too. The lakeside Sibelius Hall has been designed entirely in wood as the flagship of Finnish wood-building skills, and boasts the same acoustical consultants as Birmingham's Symphony Hall.

There are, perhaps, other parallels with Birmingham. Although the City of Birmingham

and Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra was much less provincial than its Lahti counterpart, both bands were transformed by conductors who simultaneously made their own careers while on the job. Very different from Simon Rattle in temperament, the more introverted Vänskä has achieved a no less stunning makeover of his orchestra, which he first conducted soon after winning the International Young Conductors' Competition in Besançon in 1982. He became principal guest conductor in 1985 and music director three years later, but even then would have been surprised by a glimpse into the future.

"Of course I wanted to build something," says Vänskä, now in his mid-forties. "But it was a dream, certainly not reality. If someone had told me ten years ago what would happen, I'd have laughed." Authoritative on the podium but self-effacing in conversation, he stresses the way in which his fortunes have been linked to those of the orchestra — "If I have learnt anything about my job, they have been very good teachers" — but is reluctant to offer an easy recipe for such success.

"Work is the best advice I can give — and it's taken time. It's been a step-by-step process in which no one really knew where we were going, but everyone was ready to give their best. Other than that, one needs patience, ideas about

the music and the keys to open psychological locks."

"An orchestra also needs to be humble enough to accept that it has to work and not all orchestras are. Our orchestra knows that even if something went well in a concert, the next morning we have to start again from zero."

Vänskä may have built his and the orchestra's reputation on Sibelius, but he has broadened the Lahti repertoire considerably and cultivated a distinctive sound. The strings have a warm, soft-grained tone, well suited to Romantic music, and the orchestra is currently progressing through its first Bruckner cycle.

"I believe there's a lot of good music out there that didn't go down well because the premiere was badly played. The risk with contemporary works is that if they are not rehearsed properly, the audience will not like them and they'll disappear."

Vänskä knows both sides of orchestral life, having been principal clarinet in the Turku

and Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestras before conducting. He has held chief conductorships of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Tapiola Sinfonietta and, since 1996, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and he is now one of the many Finnish conductors making their mark on the musical world, a number out of all proportion to such a small country.

The composer will be the focus of this weekend's series of concerts and talks, titled *Sibelius: the Creative Process*. Highlights will be the neglected

tone poem *The Wood Nymph*, the original and revised editions of the Fifth Symphony, and the first British performance of the original version of the Violin Concerto, given with special permission of the Sibelius family.

Vänskä is undoubtedly one of the leading interpreters of the composer today, a conductor whose vigorous approach to his music has underlined Sibelius's modernity rather than his roots in the 19th-century Russian tradition. Yet he does

not deny them. "Because of our history we don't like these Russian influences, but we are neighbours, we do have connections and we have to accept that our culture is linked. But to me he is one of the most original composers in history, the deepest of our century's symphonists. He was very contemporary for his time, but still spoke to ordinary people."

• The Lahti Symphony Orchestra is at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, (0121-212 3333) tomorrow and Sunday

Wrong way traffic

CONCERTS

Monteverdi
in Glasgow

TOWARDS the end of the exotic *Song of the Beggars* by the Korean composer Hyo Shin Na there is a distinct allusion to *Der Leierman*, the last song in Schubert's *Winterreise* cycle. That would seem a good example of the influence of European music on another culture. But there it was, together with several items like it, in a concert presented by the BBC as part of a week of events designed to illustrate the movement of the traffic in precisely the opposite direction.

Well, if you are thinking of promoting a *Beyond our Shores* film in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and the Kronos Quartet is available, there is no point in being too academic about it. If the Kronos Quartet is offering the first performance of parts of a Philip Glass film score so new that it is still unfinished and so newsworthy that the title of the film cannot be revealed, you do not turn it down. The

Three parts of his sum

CLASSICAL

Kronos

feeling that we have heard it all before and the suspicion that it would be little different whatever the film are all risks evidently worth taking. And Alfred Schnittke's Second String Quartet was very welcome even though middle-period Bartók should by historical rights have been its place and the cross-cultural influence is no more than that of Russian Orthodox music on Russian chamber music.

The first half of the Kronos Quartet concert featured pieces from no fewer than seven nationalities, which was both highly entertaining and a little disappointing. Portuguese guitar music by Carlos Paredes, Argentinean tango tunes from bandoneon by Anibal Troilo, *Gloomy Sunday* in a version for Hungarian gypsy band by Rezo Seress; it all seemed very colourful in prospect but, arranged in each case by Osvaldo Golijov, it all sounded very Kronos. Conceived from the first for string quartet, Aleksandra Vrebalov's *Panonia* and Franghiz Al-Zadeh's *Oasis* are both more authentic examples of cultural fusion, and therefore more interesting, despite being too long.

In the midst of all this, the effect of the first performance of Terry Riley's *Cortejo Funebre en el Monte Diablo* was exotic to an extreme. Written for synthesizers as well as the Kronos strings, it is an extraordinary mixture of simulated and natural sounds with a bizarre yet irresistible fascination.

Although the violin is silent for only a few moments of brief woodwind glory, it is musician rather than technique which is on trial here, as

HILARY FINCH

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CHANGING TIMES

Child's play

Wild, g
— fair

Fierce

HILARY FINCH

Heading to
the top with
Gwynne Spears

REVIEW



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LISTINGS

Wuthering Heights staged

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Hargre

LONDON

MAHLER AND VIECHNER: The Philharmonia Orchestra embarks on the second leg of this series with a look at the legacy left by German Romantic and later composers of the Second Vienna School. The program includes *The Creation* followed by Schoenberg's monodrama *Eurydice*, sung by mezzo Hildegard Behrens, and Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. Royal Festival Hall (0171-920 4262). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

IBERIA: The award-winning British pianist Martin Jones tackles the four complete books of Isaac Albéniz's

complex and technically challenging piano impressions. Purcell Room (0171-980 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

EL CULIOTE: Star of the Gate's new Idiot Sesson, David Johnston's new adaptation of Cervantes, directed by Maria Mimbela Ross. Gielgud Theatre (0171-229 0708). Open tonight, 7.30pm.

THE CHOSTKA: The Chostka's

monodrama *Everlasting*, sung by mezzo Hildegard Behrens, and Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. Royal Festival Hall (0171-920 4262). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

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monodrama *Eurydice*. Royal Festival Hall (0171-920 4262). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

LEEDS: Malcolm Sutherland directs his company in *Wuthering Heights*. Elizabeth Dermot Welsh and Crook Shishan play the lovers. Quarry (0113-213 7700). Preview from tonight, 7.30pm.

LIVERPOOL: The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra celebrates its Richard Strauss celebrations. Ibor Pešek conducts the composer's *Don Juan* followed by *Burlesque for Piano with Chorus*. Orfeo (0151-703 3799). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

WARNING: Impaired earphones of new musical instruments. Guests continue to make complex compositions accessible in a programme featuring a new Philip Glass preceded by pieces by Steve Reich and Alfred Schnittke. Arts Centre (01203 524324). Tonight, 8pm.

Hildegard Behrens sings Schoenberg in London

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only □ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

G BAREFACED CHIC: Fascinating Ads play here for a month before setting off on their latest national tour. This time Clarke Peters directs. Theatre Royal Haymarket (0171-530 8800). 8pm.

D THE GREEN SNAKE: Most elaborate interpretation of Goethe's best play. The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lly, done with puppets and, of course, mosa. Riverside Studios (0171-237 1111).

D THE NUNALUS: Irish all-girl stencil singing trio bring harmony, blarney and a sharp talk at humanity. Drill Hall (0171-637 8270).

D SHOCKHEADED PETER: The Scrooge is back, a determined and determined Dubliner. Michael Flanagan's play about the West End. Michael Blakemore directs. Doches (0171-494 3389).

D COPIENHAGEN: Henning calls on Nels Johnson in western Denmark. Michael Flanagan's play about the West End. Michael Blakemore directs. Doches (0171-494 3389).

D TALK OF THE CITY: Stephen Frears' potentially fascinating play about the City of London. With David Westhead and a charismatic Angus Wright. Young Vic (0171-928 6363). 8pm.

D HOW THE ROOKIES: Mark O'Brien's graphic account of Dublin's vicious underworld feuds. Mike Bradwell directs Alan Kelly and Karl Sheils. 8pm.

D NOVEMBER'S WHEN PIGS FLY: Off-Broadway hit comedy about putting on a musical review: emphasis on lavish costumes and amateur performances. Arts Theatre (0181-838 3334).

D THE GREEN SNAKE: Most elaborate interpretation of Goethe's best play. The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lly, done with puppets and, of course, mosa. Riverside Studios (0171-237 1111).

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FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering cast of American soldiers lose their innocence during the fighting during the Second World War. Terrence Malick's first film for 20 years is an artistic masterpiece. With Sean Penn, Jim Caviezel, Ben Chaplin, Nick Nolte.

YOU GOT MAIL (PG): Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster. With Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love over the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

PAINTED ANGELS (18): Sleek period piece about the prostitutes who serviced the frontmen of the Wild West. A joyless plot between the smelly pumper and the drab wooden saloon by Jon Landis.

TITANIC (T): James Cameron's epic house in this comic review of Northern Ireland's Troubles circa 1972. Roger Michell directs.

PERDITA DURANGO (18): Rose Perez and Javier Bardem are two Toreros who fall in love with each other in a corrida road movie involving hoodoo, frozen bodies and drugs. Alvaro de la Iglesia directs.

URBAN LEGEND (18): Dan Jinks Banks' horror flick that slathers

through an American campus with the help of a migraine-inducing orchestra.

CURRENT

AFLICITION (15): Paul Schrader's bruising portrait of a frustrated small-town cop. Nick Nolte and Dennis Christopher play partners in a career and son caught in a cycle of male violence.

THIS YEARS LOVE (18): David Kane's bumpy charters the mess six Camden Town misfits make of their love lives among the junk and grime. With Kathy Burke, Jennifer Ehle, Douglas Henshall, Dougray Scott, Catherine McCormack and Ian Hart.

HOLY MAN (PG): Eddie Murphy's naive spiritual guru and Jeff Goldblum's stacy TV documentary team up to make a movie about a shooting channel. Director Stephen Herek flogs the satire rather less keenly than his big name stars.

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG): Roberto Benigni's romantic Second World War tale stories a disturbing comedy into the heart of fascism. With a bit but not the same treatment of the struggle to survive in a dream camp at best naughtiness.

We are in Dublin with both bands to celebrate their collaboration and the Corrs, who hail from Dundalk, are equally thrilled with the new record — an old standard called *I Know My Love*, reinvented as a frothy but delightful piece of pop-like that finds the Chieftains playing up a Gaelic storm behind the enchanting harmonies of a band whose *Talk On Corners* was the biggest-selling album of last year.

"We grew up on the Chieftains. Our music is pop and rock but it has a strong Celtic influence so it was an honour that they deemed us worthy to

play with them," Andrea Corr says.

"Paddy rang us in LA and we were very surprised," Jim Corr explains. "He sent us a tape of the song and asked us to do it. We were a bit suspicious, but when we got a feel for his ideas, we knew it would work."

The single set for release in May, comes from *Tears of Stone*, the Chieftains' new album, which features not only the Corrs but a different female vocalist on every track, from American folk-rockers Joni Mitchell and Natalie Merchant to little-known singers from Norway and Japan.

As Ireland's foremost musical ambassadors, the Chieftains are no strangers to star-studded collaborations. In recent years they have been to Nashville to record with Willie Nelson and other country legends. Such luminaries as the Rolling Stones and Tom Jones guested on their *Long Black Veil* album, and Malone's ferocious young group has seen them trawling the world to play with local musicians from the Cuban *barras* to the Great Wall of China.

This ceaseless experimentation has led to debate within the Chieftains camp about straying too far from their roots. "When Paddy comes up

with another madcap idea, I say, 'When are the Chieftains going to make an Irish traditional album?'" Matt Molloy, the band's flautist, remarked last year.

"He's right," admits Ma-

the Chieftains' magnificently authentic playing provides the perfect backdrop for a series of stunning voices. The album was finally finished last November when Bonnie Raitt to record the last track. Sheryl Crow had wanted to add her voice, too, but Malone had already missed so many deadlines as the project expanded that he had to declare the book closed.

"It was three years in the making and I started calling it the grandmas' album because we took so long," he jokes. "Joni Mitchell had promised us a song and we had to wait to find a slot in her diary.

Then, when I thought we had almost finished, I met Natalie Merchant totally by accident in the pub in my little village in Wicklow. She was playing in Dublin. I saw her show and had to have her on the record. She was free the next day and we recorded her in two takes."

With the exception of Mitch-

ell's composition *Magdalene Laundry*, all of the repertoire was suggested to the singers by Malone. "You have to pick songs that suit the voice. I always said I would never do *Danny Boy*, for example. It's been done so many times. Then I started thinking about voices that could bring something fresh to it. I thought of

Aretha Franklin but then I thought of the jazz singer Diana Krall and she definitely found a new way of doing it."

Some of the more far-flung

contributions are among the most interesting. "With Akiko Yano from Japan I wanted to explore the common strands of Eastern and Celtic music. I composed the music and she put the words to it and we called it *Sake in the Jar*.

"I wanted to ask different singers to come into our world because if you listen to *sean nos*, which is the old style of Irish traditional singing, you will hear something similar in folk music all around the world, from India to South America."

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■ POP

Chieftains get their girls

Mixing the spices

CHARLIE MARIANO

Bangalore

(Intuition INT 3246-2)

CHARLIE MARIANO

has been visiting and

studying in India for nearly

three decades now, and

his recordings with mem-

bers of the Karnataka Col-

lege of Percussion date

back 15 years, so he is

something of an adept at

blending his jazz also

sound with the textures and

rhythms of the sub-

continent. Of course, im-

provization in general, as

well as stylistic features

such as call-and-response

patterns and spontaneous

interplay between instru-

ments, are common to both

traditions, and several Indian mem-

bers of the 14-piece band in-

volved here commute be-

tween them too. So the

ease and natural assur-

ance of the music — written

by singer R. A. Rama-

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

mani, guitarist Amit Heri and keyboard player Louis Banks along with Mariano — is unsurprising.

What does impress, however, is the freshness and vitality: neither the gutsy adventurousness of jazz nor the extraordinary rhythmic complexity of the Karnataka participants is compromised in their blending. A consistently engaging and at times exhilarating album.

DAVE DOUGLAS

Convergence (Soul Note 12136-2)

AMERICAN trumpeter Dave Douglas is, as he himself acknowledges, "a blower by nature", and this quintet album not only features unusual instrumentation — Mark Feldman's violin and Erik Friedlander's cello plus a conventional rhythm section of Drew Gress on bass and Michael Sarin on drums — but also draws on everything from traditional Burmese music through the blues and free jazz, to Messiaen and Kurt Weill.

The results, whether

he is contributing darkly

poignant trumpet to a threnody for massacred Mexican villagers, blazing through a

THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26 1999

■ POP ALBUMS

Triumph for Underworld

Single of the yearn

Who is Britney Spears, and why should the world be grateful that TLC are missing in action? Read on

The scene is a corridor full of schoolgirls; all knee socks and high-heeled, pink lipgloss. And they're sorrowful, oh, my Lord, so sorrowful. Their friend — a scrawny blonde (well, scrawny by Los Angeles standards) has been dumped by her blonde, and she's losing it big time. "My loneliness is killing me," she howls as her friends gather around her like baby deer around a wounded comrade.

Getting militant in their sorrow, the girls start walking down the corridor, bags swinging, fingers clicking. As they get nearer to us, they smoothly fall into an arrowhead formation and slide into their dancing — furious, lost, swooning to the music. The scrawny girl keeps collapsing — knees to the floor, arms around her body — but still stares at us, hard and desperate, begging: "Hit me baby, one more time."

The song in question, *Baby One More Time*, is the greatest single since Hanson's precocious, diamond-bright *MMMBop*. It's a pounding, high teen R&B drama that twists and turns with unexpected Hammer piano chords, before breaking out into a demurely hysterical chorus. It has flown out of the shops. No 1 in its first week of release in Britain, during which it

CAITLIN

MORAN

Spears is a massive Mariah Carey fan, and we all know how Mariah loves to run up and down those scales like a rat up a drainpipe. The tiny Spears can get at least three-quarters of the way up before she needs ladders. But she's very happy about this.

"God has led me everywhere, and with my leg, I think it was Him giving me a sign that I needed a break," she husks. "I thank Him for it." What a polite girl.

But then, she has got a lot of lounging around to catch up on: she started auditioning for fame early, initially applying to be one of Mickey Mouse's Mouseketeers at the age of eight. Unfortunately, you can't

wear the sacred mouse ears until you hit 11, so she got herself an agent and went to some *Fame*-type school in New York, moving there when she reached 16. She sang in shopping malls for a year before getting her record deal.

"I was so excited when I heard *Baby One More Time* for the first time," she says in a tiny voice, like a baby rabbit trying to hide inside a thimble. "I just knew it was going to be a hit." So did the man who wrote it incongruously for such a sassy R&B teenie hit, its author is Max Martin, former lead singer of Swedish heavy metal band It's Alive. It's like finding out that *Amazing*

video in LA last week, Spears "kicked too high" and her supporting leg went from beneath her. She's dislocated her kneecap, and is confined to bed with swelling and bandages. But she's very happy about this.

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"God has led me everywhere," says Britney Spears. Why, she can even understand why He allowed her to break her kneecap

Grace was written by Vinnie Jones. The song was originally written for TLC. "Martin says, TLC are the R&B equivalent of the Stone Roses — their second album is a masterpiece, possibly the greatest album of the decade — but their career was on hold for four years because of legal squabbles. Martin offered the song to them, but their record company wanted to give it to boy band Five instead. In a Rightful Hump, Martin withdrew his song and gave it to Spears instead. "The day I can't decide who gets to do my songs is the day I quit," he says, very reasonably. TLC must be kicking themselves.

In the meantime, Spears is reaping the crop of their rejected magic beans.

"I had this weird dream last night," she says. "I was in a mirrored elevator stuck between floors, and I couldn't get out of it. There was a phone in there, and I was calling everybody, all my friends, saying 'I'm stuck in an elevator'. But I was really cool with it. Normally, if that happened, I'd be freaking out. But I was really happy in that elevator." That's fate for you.

Britney Spears and her scary dancing schoolgirls will be on Top of the Pops tonight (BBC1, 7.30pm). *Baby One More Time* is released by Jive Records

■ POP MEMOIRS

Mick Wall tells tales

Wall has all the fun flavour

David Sinclair on a new book about the darker, seamier and much more interesting side of pop

It is a puzzling fact that the most entertaining books about the world of popular music have been written by people who affect an utterly cynical disregard for the music itself. James Young's *Nic: Songs They Never Played On The Radio and Simon Napier-Bell's You Don't Have To Say You Love Me* are two that spring immediately to mind, and Mick Wall's wildly indiscreet account of his life as a press officer for Black Sabbath and the subsequent author of "mediocre" books (his own word) about Ozzy Osbourne and Guns N' Roses is another memoir told in a similarly dark-twisted and frequently hilarious vein.

Veins are discussed in some detail as Wall starts the book with an unpleasantly graphic description of the period of his life when he was a heroin addict, although contrary to the more usual sequence of events, this is before he becomes established as a reviewer and feature writer for the heavy-metal mag *Kerrang!*

Like many junkies his emotional insecurity is more than matched by a broad streak of vainglorious egotism. As a journalist, even more than as a press officer, his contempt for the music and musicians he writes about is absolute. The albums that he reviews are "all so unbelievably atrocious I couldn't bring myself to listen to more than a minute or so of each track". When he interviews Kate Bush, all he wants to do is fondle her breasts, while an encounter with Stevie Nicks in her Cali-



Rock bottom: Mick Wall had nothing but contempt for the hand that fed him

your fear of clichés when everything is a cliché," he reasons.

Only once does he admit to something more to it than this. Standing on the side of the stage at Live Aid in Philadelphia as Led Zeppelin reach the end of their historic performance of *Stairway To Heaven*, Wall is surprised to find himself feeling "as if there might actually be some meaning somewhere in the Universe. That this was in some way real."

The moment quickly passes.

● **Paranoid — Black Days with Sabbath & Other Horror Stories by Mick Wall** is published by Mainstream at £9.99

ARTS



Throw the tiddlers back

UNDERWORLD

Beaucoup Fish
(Jive 1005432 £14.49)

THERE has been a significant upturn of the ante in the dance world since Underworld released their last album, *Second Toughest in the Infants*, in 1996. Landmark albums by Prodigy, the Chemical Brothers, Fatboy Slim, Massive Attack and Roni Size have all stretched the envelope in different directions while at the same time making dance music more accessible to mainstream tastes. The temptation for Underworld to start competing on somebody else's terms must have been difficult to resist. But the trio from Essex, who spent much of this period riven by internal dissent, have kept their nerve, and *Beaucoup Fish* is another triumph of sorts.

Despite drawing on a severely limited palette melodically and harmonically, they make their ingenious use of rhythms, sounds and fragments of verse to stitch together pulsating grooves layered in atmos-

NEW POP ALBUMS

Pheres you could cut with a knife. *Cups*, with its synthesized vocals and a bassline like an uncurling spring, takes a full nine minutes to evolve before finally hitting its stride, while *Push Upstairs* barges straight in with an insistent techno beat nudged along by urgent little slabs of piano. Its companion piece, *Push Downstairs*, finds Kali Hyde's heavily drawled and reverberated words — "These are my intentions" — swimming out of a sleepy, narcotic haze.

As an artefact *Beaucoup Fish* is designed to serve perfectly. But meaning is elusive throughout, tunes nonexistent, and sometimes the sketchiest of evocations is forced to masquerade as a fully developed

idea. Despite its sinews of rhythmic steel, this is an album with a heart of glass.

EVERLAST
Whitney Ford Sings the Blues
(Tommy Boy TBCD 1236 £12.99)

ALTHOUGH Everlast (real name Erik Schrody) is best known as the frontman in House Of Pain — the Irish-fixated hip hop crew from Los Angeles who reached the Top Ten with *Jump Around* in 1993 — the tattooed rapper actually released his first solo record as long ago as 1988. Now, with *Whitney Ford Sings the Blues*, he takes things to a new level, combining rootsy acoustic guitar with a hip-hop beat to create songs that encapsulate the American experience as seen from the underside.

Both the tone and delivery of the lyrics is, thankfully, a long way removed from the oftish declamations that used to be Everlast's stock-in-trade: "God forbid you ever had to walk a mile in his shoes/Cos then you really might know what it's like to sing the blues"; he sings with soulful dignity on the single, *What It's Like*.

There are echoes of Fun Lovin' Criminals on *Ends*, and at its most mellow, when accompanied by a horn section

on 7 Years, he achieves a synthesis of old and new that recalls the world of Beck. These days, recommendations for white rap acts do not come much higher than that.

GENE

Revelations
(Polydor 547 119 £12.99)

HAVING talked themselves up beyond all reasonable expectation, Gene are now reaping a bitter harvest. For nothing sounds quite so dated as a band that enjoyed its moment of glory primarily through the offices of the music press.

Thus, despite several ringing tunes and a bright, confident production by Hugh Jones, *Revelations* is an album up beyond all reasonable expectation. Gene are now reaping a bitter harvest. For nothing sounds quite so dated as a band that enjoyed its moment of glory primarily through the offices of the music press.

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1 (2) *Talk on Corners* ... Coss (Atlanta)
2 (2) *Point Break* ... Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
3 (2) *The Minuscule* ... Lauren Hill (Columbia)
4 (2) *You've Come a Long Way, Baby* ... Fatboy Slim (Stardom)
5 (2) *This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours* ... Marie Street Preachers (Epic)
6 (2) *No Exit* ... Blondie (RCA/BMG)
7 (2) *Forgotten, Not Forgotten* ... Conn (Ariola)
8 (2) *Life's a Laugh* ... Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
9 (2) *Step One* ... Steps (Uve)
10 (2) *Greatest Hits* ... Eurythmics (RCA)

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TOP TEN ALBUMS

1 (2) *Talk on Corners* ... Coss (Atlanta)
2 (2) *Point Break* ... Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
3 (2) *The Minuscule* ... Lauren Hill (Columbia)
4 (2) *You've Come a Long Way, Baby* ... Fatboy Slim (Stardom)
5 (2) *This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours* ... Marie Street Preachers (Epic)
6 (2) *No Exit* ... Blondie (RCA/BMG)
7 (2) *Forgotten, Not Forgotten* ... Conn (Ariola)
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Blair, the euro and a roasting from the press

According to his closest advisers, Tony Blair has counted every day that *The Sun* has failed to savage new Labour as a bonus: a day gained for the new Labour project. After two savagings of Blair this week by Britain's biggest-selling daily, February 21-27, 1999 may be judged by historians as the week the bonus was withdrawn.

As Anatole Kaletsky noted in *The Times* yesterday, the historic statement by Blair on the euro was a watershed in British politics: a day when nemesis may have stalked the Commons and when William Hague, the Conservative leader, emerged as a "Thatcher-style dark horse" instead of an "irrelevant, sacrificial placeholder".

It followed Blair's worst press since he became Prime Minister, after the rows over GM food, the Welsh leadership election, Ken Livingstone and the weekend injunction against publication of leaked extracts from the Stephen Lawrence report.

He is a "humbug", says Alan Watkins in the *Independent on Sunday*: a "schizophrenic control freak", says Andrew Rawnsley in *The Observer*; "Rasputin", says Simon Jenkins in *The Times*; "heavy-handed, illiberal and authoritarian", says Simon Heffer in the *Daily Mail*. Nothing compels him so much as his ever-changing mirror of the press, says Jenkins. "How will it play?" he demands of a policy, long before "What should it be?"

What should it be? On the most profound issue confronting his Government, whether Britain should sign up to monetary union, Blair has now declared his policy. How did it play? Not very well.

On Monday *The Sun* devoted its entire front page to another of its 72-point questions: "Is this the most arrogant Cabinet in history?" Although new Labour thought the press had given it a hard time, it declared, the truth was that they had had an easy ride. It added, ominously: "The easy ride might now be coming to an end."

It returned to the attack on Wednesday, on this occasion drawing a parallel between Blair and the complacency of Stanley Baldwin in the interwar years. "Baldwin went from revered to reviled, a figure of intense hatred for the working classes," it said. "Bear that in mind, Mr



Pounding away: *The Sun's* criticism



benefit of the doubt, they withdraw their offer and lose their leverage." So can Blair now use his popularity to overcome the hostility of five popular newspapers and win a referendum? His task could seem daunting. When more than 121,000 *Sun* readers voted in a "You the Jury" phone-in on Wednesday, they delivered a 15-1 verdict for the pound. Even MORI's most recent and reliable poll for *The Times*, published today, delivers a 2-1 verdict against the euro among *Sun* readers (see table).

Yet MORI also shows that Blair has all to play for. At least half the readers of all five sceptic newspapers — some ten million potential voters — are still wavering and capable of being swayed either for or against the euro.

Nor do readers necessarily follow the opinions of their newspapers. According to MORI (some on admittedly tiny samples), only 5 per cent of *Guardian* readers, 15 per cent of *Times* and *Telegraph*, 28 per cent of *Mail* and 37 per cent of *Sun* readers unequivocally oppose the euro. And if the PM plays the Trust-me-I'm-Tony-Blair-I'm-new-Labour card, three of the eurosceptic papers, *The Guardian* (15%), *Sun* (62%) and *The Times* (47%), have a majority of Labour-voting readers.

With a decision still three years away, Blair is gambling his reputation on Britain joining the euro. But Blair gambles squared. *The Daily Telegraph* warned Blair, and *The Times* devoted what must have been the longest leading article in its history, over more than half the leader page, on the five tests that needed to be passed before serious debate could begin.

National newspapers were evenly split on Wednesday, with five supporting Blair — *The Mirror*, *Express*, *Daily Star*, *Independent* and *FT* — and five in the sceptic camp — *The Sun*, *Mail*, *Times*, *Telegraph* and *Guardian*. But the sceptic newspapers have nearly 20 million readers a day against 12 million for Blair.

One result for Blair, as Hugo Young, a euro enthusiast, pointed out in *The Guardian*, is that he is no longer bullet-proof by the "photo-sceptic" editors who believed that he was a supplicant for their favours: "By disallowing him any further

TABLOID READERS' VOTING AND THE EURO			
	The Sun	Daily Mirror	Daily Mail
Thousands	9,346	6,408	5,288
Support %	30	51	36
Oppose %	66	44	52
Wavering %	45	55	50

(Source: MORI)

you're going to see me and my gang, going to the same people and getting the evidence. What I'm trying to show is that if you had more black police, you would have a better network, better approach, better communication. If I was a policeman, I could have looked at Stephen Lawrence and seen that he was a straight, honest boy. But they couldn't."

Bob Cox, a Scotland Yard spokesman, says that the force is excited about having a new tool in its PR campaign. "We have tried lots of advertising, market research, and stuff in the ethnic news-

Join the homeboys in blue

A record producer aims to boost ethnic minority police recruitment with a rap video and CD, says Henry Bonsu

ANDRE CAMARA

PHOTOGRAPH BY



Charles Bailey says his street-level message will work

papers and magazines, and slowly the numbers have crept up. But this was an innovative idea from someone who is from the black community, and who are we to say that it won't work?

The Met's radical move follows that of other uniformed services such as the Armed Forces, which have consistently had trouble attracting ethnic minority recruits. Last year, the Household Cavalry sent a mounted troop through Brixton, providing much amusement for local residents. Another headline-grabbing stunt was a poster campaign which showed a black Army captain, Felix Dawson, in Lord Kitchener pose, telling the community "Your country needs you".

But Abi Adeniran of Hothouse market research, who monitors trends in the black community, doubts that the Met's initiative will work. "The fundamental problem with the police is that they are marketing something with features it does not have. It is not worth them selling themselves until they get their house in order."

Simon de Banya, who masterminded the Stephen Lawrence media campaign, was similarly sceptical. "What difference will bringing out a video make? Until we see an improvement in the force, better solving of black crime, a cutting-down of stop and search and of deaths in custody, people are going to say 'why should I join?'."

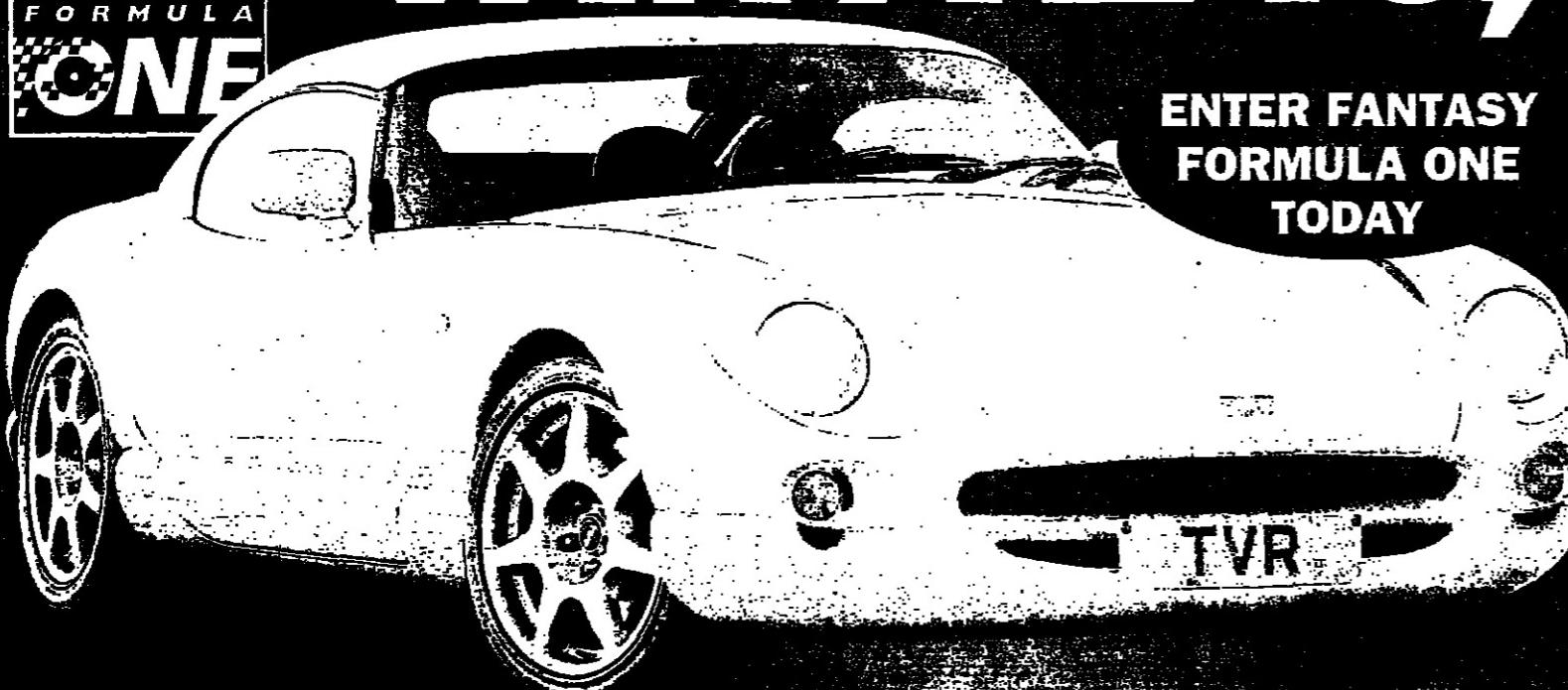
However, Bailey points to the great response he received last May when he made a record encouraging alienated young people to vote in the referendum for a London mayor. "As a black guy, I know what buttons to press to grab the attention of black people. The Met has been bold in giving me the contract. I guarantee you won't have seen anything like this before," he says.

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02 Michael Schumacher	08 Olivier Panis	13 HH Frenzen	19 Rubens Barrichello
03 Damon Hill	09 Giancarlo Fisichella	14 Alexander Wurz	20 Pedro Diniz
04 David Coulthard	10 Jean Alesi	15 Mika Salo	21 Pedro de la Rosa
05 Alessandro Zanardi	11 Johnny Herbert	16 Ricardo Zonta	22 Luca Badoer
06 Jacques Villeneuve	17 Marc Gené	18 Jacques Villeneuve	23 Roldo Norberto Fontana

CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C		GROUP D	
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24 Ferrari	26 Jordan	28 Sauber	30 BAR

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TO ENTER BY POST

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. To qualify for the start of the Australian Grand Prix, postal entries must be received by first post on Thursday, March 4, 1999.

THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

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1st 2nd 3rd

GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS

1st 2nd 3rd

Team Name (maximum of 16 characters)

I have read and accept the rules and wish to enter the Fantasy Formula One game.

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If I were head of the BBC

Raymond Snoddy
would cut bureaucracy, sack consultants and support the creatives if he were made DG

Before people such as Greg Dyke of Pearson Television and Mark Byford of the BBC World Service get too far ahead in the race for the job of Director-General of the BBC it is time to submit my formal application.

There is, of course, a large field jostling for attention even before Sir John Birt's job is advertised. Broadcasters such as David Elstein, Chief Executive of Channel 5, and Alan Yentob, the BBC Director of Television, are considering adding their hats to the ring. But all the declared candidates, however able, have a tired feel. They have been trotting around the three-ring circus of British broadcasting for years, dreaming all the time of becoming Director-General of the BBC.

What is needed is a fresh name and a new approach. Hidebound thinkers might consider that never having run anything would be a disadvantage — but that didn't stop Tony Blair. And if there is one lesson to be learnt from a lifetime in journalism, it is the ability to cut quickly through the flannel and get to the heart of the matter.

It is obvious what needs to be done at the BBC. In part it is a matter of changing its tone and culture but there are also immediate, practical things to be done to ensure that the corporation remains the pre-eminent public service broadcaster well into the next century.

Sir John has already reformed the BBC, but where in the past there was not enough management, too little financial information and inadequate strategic thinking, there is now too much. The place is drowning in policy options and perpetual revolution.

It is time to value, cherish and empower programme-makers. Above all they need to be protected from yet more structural change. The more dubious efforts of the past could even be reversed. The corporate divide between commissioning and actually making programmes would be too disruptive to unpick now. But what should be treated with increasingly benign neglect is the dogma of "bi-medialism", the notion that television and radio are the same and that the foot soldiers are interchangeable. It is not so.

Obviously it is sensible to encourage a wide range of skills and to break down barriers between crafts, but the differences should be respected too. It would cost virtually nothing to make programme-makers who are usually more creative, more intelligent and better qualified academically than their bosses, to feel more appreciated.

The bureaucracy of the BBC could be tackled at a stroke by decreeing that all meetings are held on Fridays, when people are eager to get home for the weekend, leaving the rest of the week free for more productive work. To avoid excessive rigidity, departments would be able to call up to two extraordinary meetings a week for genuine emergencies.

Programme-makers will, however, need more money to devote to the mainstream pro-grammes on the established terrestrial networks where the really competitive battles will be fought. But money will be a particularly tricky subject for the new Director-General. Under the five-year licence settlement agreed with Virgin Media, the BBC got a lift-up in the licence fee to help pay for digital

Hold meetings only on Fridays to free up the week



Main picture, Ray Snoddy. Clockwise from top: the contenders — Richard Eyre, Mark Byford, Greg Dyke, Alan Yentob and David Elstein

adventures. The new DG will walk straight into a relative downturn in the licence fee. The Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, has set up a committee under the economist Gavyn Davies to look at ways of supplementing the licence fee.

The options are already clear. You can, and should, encourage the BBC to intensify its commercial activities without changing the nature of the organisation. You can argue for a licence fee that rises ahead of the retail price index but it is unlikely that politically it could add much more than 1 per cent.

The most attractive option, and one that the Davies Committee will look at, is a supplementary licence for digital.

say of £35 a year. This would be as dynamic as was the extra charge for colour television. The more people move to digital, the more money the BBC gets. The problem is that viewers are unlikely to value additional channels as much as they did the change to colour. Such a licence, unless a marginal sum, is likely to

hinder the development of digital.

As a prudent financial planner — as most journalists are at heart — I will stand on a licence fee linked to retail prices, which after all brings the corporation more than £2 billion a year. Money will have to be saved and an unsentimental view taken of the activities of those who do not contribute directly to the programme-making.

Luckily there is plenty of scope. The overblown policy unit would be the first place to start. I have never come across an organisation of any kind anywhere in the world with so many people involved in strategy and planning. Dozens of jobs and millions of pounds could be saved, and it would be double gain: switching off the flow of words and numbers would be highly liberating for the organisation.

Many more millions could be saved immediately by thanking McKinsey for their efforts over the past years and restricting the use of consultants to the provision of discrete expertise not already available in the Corporation.

There are also those who think that the press and publicity operation could benefit from streamlining.

One potential candidate for a

short back and sides is the £200 million being spent on the digital revolution. The scale of the initiative is an outrage, and BBC programme-making budgets are being unnecessarily and dangerously squeezed to pay for a form of digital imperialism. It is important that the BBC should be part of the digital future, so keep things simple and spend £100 million instead of £200 million of licence payers' money on the future. It might help BBC1 to improve its ratings.

BBC Online has worked and should be encouraged despite the free-rider problem — licence payers funding an excellent Internet news service for the citizens of California. It is cost-effective and it works because millions are hooked up to the Internet and can use it. The same is not true of digital television. So scale back News 24 and provide a genuine alternative which already exists — BBC World — supplemented by more domestic coverage as the market develops. The same applies to BBC Choice. The real additional choice would be to provide a chan-

nel that majors on showing the best of BBC1 and BBC2 the day after it goes out to give viewers an extra chance to see the many excellent programmes they have missed. Digital is important.

Until you get in there with a really good finance man at your side, like those at Granada, it is impossible to quantify the savings, but you can just smell the unnecessary spending.

Urgent decisions would also have to be taken on the programme front. Radio 4 listening figures may have recovered from their low point but my theory is not so much that people are falling in love with the changes, but that they recognise they have nowhere else to go for high-quality speech radio.

To start the process going, Yesterday in Parliament will return to Today and FM on day one. I am equally happy to give an unequivocal undertaking that One Man and His Dog make an immediate return to the screen.

And when I find the forty-something responsible for axing it ...

**Scale back
News 24
as an
alternative
already
exists**

Regulating the regulators

Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, is planning to set up a regulators' forum to try to end the squabbling and overlapping responsibilities of the bodies involved in regulating broadcasting and communications. In particular, Mr Smith wants to see greater cooperation between bodies such as the Independent Television Commission, the Office of Fair Trading and Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator.

Senior executives on such bodies already meet, but Mr Smith wants a more formal forum to coordinate the approach to the regulation of content and competition where responsibilities overlap. Such a move could happen quickly, as no legislation is required.

How communications should be regulated has become a key issue as technological convergence blurs the boundaries between broadcasting, computers and telecommunications. A recent government Green Paper on the subject took a cautious approach and stayed well away from the idea of setting up a single regulatory body for all of communications. It decided that the present structures could cope for some time yet with the changes that flow from developments such as digital television and the Internet.

It is likely that Mr Smith will now consider whether such a review of radio spectrum — which could have considerable significance for the commercial sector — is necessary. Commercial radio has been growing fast in Britain, but apart from digital, there is an increasing shortage of frequencies for new services.

RAYMOND SNODDY

A case of dog eats dog



Reality: *One Man and His Dog* was axed 18 months ago

HERE'S the truth about *One Man and His Dog*. It was axed 18 months ago by Mark "Terminator" Thompson, long before his replacement as BBC2 Controller, Jane Root, arrived. Thompson, now running the BBC's regions, says the programme's makers didn't help their case by insisting that it had to continue as a 35-minute show — which is hard to schedule.

His predecessor, urbane Michael Jackson, now chief executive of Channel 4, didn't like *One Man* either, and stockpiled lots of programmes, so no one noticed anything was up until *The Daily Telegraph* started blurting. Now that Sky has entered the bidding, BBC Choice is keen to keep it in the family. Ewe've been put straight.

■ WAR has been averted at today's What The Papers Say press awards. Granada executives spotted the potential for fistfights when they studied the seating plan at the Savoy Hotel. Paul Routledge, *The Mirror's* irascible political commentator, had been placed on the same table as Euan MacAskill of *The Guardian* — one of the four journalists who

"stole" Routledge's scoop about Peter Mandelson's loan. On the other side of MacAskill was Charlie Whelan, former press officer to the Chancellor, which would have made for a lively exchange of views. Swift action was taken, however, and MacAskill has been placed with *Guardian* pals David Hencke and Seamus Milne on a table at the other end of the room. A Granada source says: "We thought discretion the better part of valour at the Savoy."

■ THE Daily Mail's triumph over Stephen Lawrence isn't the only thing driving up sales. With *The Mail on Sunday*, it is running a double Lucky Wallet promotion, promising buyers two free gifts a week. So I have won only once. A holdover from last week, it is more relevant this week. All part of ITV's dismal public relations record,



jam doughnut! To collect the doughnut, I must take a trip to Greggs Bakery; there isn't one near me. I call it Unlucky Wallets.

■ SAD to report that ITV's drama reconstruction, *Stephen Lawrence*: *The True Story*, was watched by a disappointing 4.7 million, dropping to 3.7 million. It was hustled on to the screen last week thanks to the current mood of competition when viewers would have found it more relevant this week. All part of ITV's dismal public relations record,

after a holiday in Barbados, still finding chances, though Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of Pearson and Dyke's boss, was overheard saying: "He'd love the job, but would he want the work that goes with it?" Applications to Yugoslav-born head-hunter Milena Djurdjevic, at H & S's office, 100 Piccadilly, London, W1.

■ GLENDA BAILEY, Editor of US *Marie Claire*, is said to be spitting tacks at the discovery that British *Marie Claire* has photographed Monica Lewinsky for its April cover.

Bailey will be aghast to learn that the scoop was pulled off by the British mag's acting editor, Elsa McAlonan — soon to be Editor of *Woman's Journal* — thanks to astute remarks that she made to *The Times* about Lewinsky being her ideal cover girl.

On reading the request, Michael O'Mara, publisher of Andrew Morton's book on Lewinsky, phoned McAlonan, who suggested using Patrick Demarchelier for the shoot.

Suitably flattered, Lewinsky agreed.

Which shows that a strong nose for a story is not a dead art in the grand-

son of magazines.

Wagadon's days of woe

Its main women's mag is in trouble and hurting other titles. Just where did Wagadon go wrong, asks Carol Midgley

For a company that invented the British style magazine, the house of Wagadon is looking distinctly unfashionable this year. *The Face*, the magazine which was the last word in Eighties cool, has shown year-on-year losses of 29 per cent, according to the latest ABC figures. *Arena*, its younger but equally hip brother, has declined by nearly 30 per cent.

But it is the fate of *Frank*, Wagadon's venture into the cut-throat female market, that is causing the glumness of faces at the company's offices in Clerkenwell.

The magazine, launched in September 1997 to appeal to independent, intelligent women of 25-35, appears to be in nose-dive. Its monthly circulation is down to 37,233 — a 10.4 per cent drop, year on year.

Nick Logan, the company's charismatic editorial director, is said to be dismayed by a series of high-profile departures, including Sarah Jane Hoare, the former creative director, Dylan Jones, one-time Wagadon group editor, and Charles Gant, once managing editor of *The Face* and now with *Heat*.

Tina Gaudion, the launch Editor, resigned less than a year after the magazine's birth, saying she wanted to spend more time with her family. Wagadon insiders, however, say she did not like the mainstream direction in which the magazine was being taken. Logan, once the man with the Midas touch, last year saw *Deluxe* — Wagadon's ill-fated men's magazine — fold, and *Red*, the Emap magazine aimed at "mid-youth" women, troupe *Frank* (*Red*'s sales are hovering at a healthy 173,000, although this represents a 9 per cent drop).

Despite 40 per cent of Wagadon being owned by Condé Nast, media experts are now wondering how long *Frank* can survive without the life-support machine of a giant company such as Emap or IPC to sustain it financially through fallow times. Many staff at Wagadon, where morale is said to be



low, believe *Frank* should never have been attempted in the first place. "It is a mainstream women's magazine and Nick's strength has always been in the underground and the cutting edge," one said.

They tried to rapidly expand the company, bringing out *Frank* and *Deluxe* in the same year. But they are running the place in the same way they did 20 years ago, when it was a one-man show.

"*Wagadon* was a great place to work then and *The Face* was fantastically successful — but there were about ten people on staff and they worked for love, not money."

"Now *Wagadon* is in a completely different marketplace. The Nineties are extremely tough and aggressive. But sometimes it is as if we are still in the Eighties and haven't tapped into the modern Zeitgeist," said Nick. He still expects people to work for love in a way, but times have changed."

Others say that *Frank* has never sat comfortably in the bohemian *Face* environment. While *Face* and *Arena* journalists would be wearing tatty jeans and trainers, the women

at *Frank* would float around in Joseph suits. "The different camps eyed each other very suspiciously at first," said an insider. "It was a total culture shock."

Tim Kirkman, the head of press for the media buying group Carat, said the industry was largely pessimistic about *Frank*'s future, although a miraculous revival still wasn't out of the question.

"If it continues to show this sort of decline, it's hard to see how it can carry around for much longer," he said.

"*IPC* closes magazines if they are selling fewer than 100,000 — look at what happened to *Options*. If *Wagadon* wants to compete, it will have to operate more like Emap or IPC — and that means huge investment in the product."

"They are lovely people working at *Wagadon* but it is still a small and quite parochial company. They don't have the back-up of Emap-type organisations."

"*Frank* is not a cheap magazine to produce and they were always going to have a struggle to make it pay its way."

Many past and present staff at *Frank* have watched the progress of *Red* with envy. Some £3 million was spent on four years of focus groups before *Red* was launched in a blaze of publicity. Its sales are not brilliant but they are holding up at a very difficult time for the women's market.

Only six out of 20 monthly titles registered year-on-year increases and neither *Frank* nor *Red* has excelled what was at first hoped to be an unexpected slice of the marketplace.

Marcelle D'Argy Smith abruptly parted company with IPC's *Woman's Journal* after figures showed that it was down 13.9 per cent. She blamed lack of investment and IPC's eagerness to see immediate results.

A media expert said: "When people of the calibre of D'Argy Smith are removed, it shows there is no room at all for sentimentality in magazines at the moment. It's a brutal place and the brutal truth is that *Frank* probably won't survive, which is a shame — but you can't get by these days on just being trendy."

As it turned out, the colloquium was a fine idea. Nigerian love to talk politics; the problem was getting a word in edgeways. But they were also hungry for training, aware of how isolated and restricted their professional lives had become under a repressive military government. After years of censorship the lid has been lifted. At first I winced with anxiety when I heard their views on the misdeeds of General Abacha. They even tackled subjects considered taboo for far longer: tribalism and regionalism, even secession.

But the knowledge and professional skills to turn all this into lively, informative coverage have been eroded through lack of use and the economic crisis. Nigerian journalists attend universities that have few books, no periodicals. They cannot recall what Nigeria was like before military government and have not travelled

abroad. We brought tapes of TV election coverage in Britain and India; it was a revelation for them that in other democracies candidates not belonging to a government-approved party can stand.

One big change has been the establishment of private radio and television stations, and one of our most interesting sessions compared two television news bulletins from the same night.

The government-owned network NTA led on a speech by the head of state to a lawyers' dinner. The private station led with an exclusive about villagers stealing petrol from a leaking pipeline.

NTA's problem was not that it led with General Abdulsalam Abubakar's speech, but that the journalists had become so numbed by automatically reporting everything he said that they missed the significance of an announcement of judicial independence.

The piece was little more than a list of the dignitaries present, with shots of people dining. They soon came up with ideas on better ways to do the story.

A cracking story with striking pictures was the private station's lead. The snag was that the journalists involved admitted that the pictures were of another incident. Only in the face of heavy peer pressure did they concede that the pictures were misleading to the point of dishonesty.

We welcomed as speakers politicians, trade unionists and leading Nigerian journalists, and watched them being subjected to our participants' newly honed interviewing techniques. When we had finished, one journalist said: "We didn't know what to expect. But you have refurbished our minds." These new skills will no doubt serve the Nigerian media well in tomorrow's presidential elections.

• Elizabeth Blunt is the Planning Editor at BBC World Service News.

Time to cry freedom

An era without censorship is dawning for Nigeria's media, says Elizabeth Blunt

The invitation was tempting: three weeks in Nigeria, which had been all but closed to foreign journalists because of the late General Sani Abacha's restrictive policies. The British Government, keen to support Nigeria's transition to democracy, was sponsoring a series of events for Nigerian journalists and had asked the BBC to organise them.

My team was there in the lead-up to last weekend's parliamentary elections to give nine workshops across Nigeria. Each team included an experienced broadcaster, plus someone with training experience. I am a former West Africa correspondent for the BBC and covered my first Nigerian election in 1979.

The World Service Training Trust, in charge of the project, told us: "Don't even think of it as 'training.' Workshops or colloquiums would be better." It was thought that Nigerian journalists, traditionally among Africa's best, would not come if offered "training".

Only six out of 20 monthly titles registered year-on-year increases and neither *Frank* nor *Red* has excelled what was at first hoped to be an unexpected slice of the marketplace.

Marcelle D'Argy Smith abruptly parted company with IPC's *Woman's Journal* after figures showed that it was down 13.9 per cent. She blamed lack of investment and IPC's eagerness to see immediate results.

A media expert said: "When people of the calibre of D'Argy Smith are removed, it shows there is no room at all for sentimentality in magazines at the moment. It's a brutal place and the brutal truth is that *Frank* probably won't survive, which is a shame — but you can't get by these days on just being trendy."

THE TIMES

Andrex puppy caught in adland war

TEMPERS are flaring over Kimberly-Clark's decision to hand its £90 million worldwide advertising for paper tissues to J. Walter Thompson, Marketing Week reports.

One of the brands affected is Andrex, which JWT handled until it was replaced by FCB Worldwide two years ago. Now FCB's president Harry Reid says K-C's decision has caused him "sadness, anger and disillusionment" and claims that JWT has won the account back by price-cutting. "I am angry because K-C is giving the account to an agency it fired a couple of years ago ... and that has discounted to a ludicrous level to get the business." K-C denied that price was a factor. JWT invented the Andrex puppy and FCB car-

ried it further with the "puppy patrol". Now the beast may be put down.

■ YET ANOTHER glossy garden magazine is to invade an increasingly crowded market. Press Gazette reports that GE Magazines will launch the bi-monthly *Garden Inspiration* next week, ahead of the planned *New Eden* from IPC. *Gardens Illustrated* and *The English Garden* are already established, as well as a host of "how-to" mags. Becca Watson, publisher, says *Garden Inspiration* will be aimed primarily at women.

■ FIGURES for cinema advertising spend for 1998 will show a rise to £97 million, up ten per cent on 1997, according

to the Cinema Advertising Association quoted in *Media Week*. United Distillers and Vintners was the largest advertiser, led by a £3.1 million campaign for Smirnoff vodka. The biggest increase came in the corporate sector, increasing its spend by 270 per cent.

■ THE LAUNCH in April of individual savings accounts (Isas) will spark a £100 million ad blitz from 300 financial services companies, says Marketing, quoting the Media agency Carat. About a quarter will be spent on TV spots, the rest on press ads and mallshots. The Inland Revenue will spend

about £1 million on a campaign to make people aware of the new tax-exempt accounts.

■ C H A N - GING FACES: Melinda Messenger to host new comedy game show, *Can We Still Be Friends?* for Channel 5 (Broadcast). Tony Combes, head of public affairs for Safeway, moves to Monsanto to head corporate, public and media relations in wake of GM food scare. Granada Media Group seeks new corporate affairs director as Chris Hopson moves to senior management role; Kirsty Macmaster quits as European financial PR head for Edelman Worldwide, com-

panying about lack of investment by the company (PR Week). BBC Worldwide poaches Paul Gillooly, head of multi-media content for BT, as its new head of global marketing for entertainment; Mick Buckley, vice-president of ad sales with TNT and the Cartoon network, to be UK managing director of Turner Entertainment Networks.

■ GETTING THE BUSINESS: Former building society Woolwich seeks new agency for relaunch to replace Ogilvy & Mather, its agency for 35 years; M & C Saatchi expected to get a slice of Sainsbury's business; Goodyear plans to replace McCann-Erickson on its \$15 million European ad account (Campaign). Pretty Polly hires

TBWA GGT Simons Palmer for £7 million TV campaign for bras; Sky drops M & C Saatchi and takes its £60 million ad account in-house (Marketing).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

media watch

THE men's magazine market has been in the headlines, thanks to the dismissal of James Brown as Editor of *GQ*. Even without such publicity, the circulation of men's lifestyle titles has been buoyant. In the six months to the end of December, total circulation increased by 6.1 per cent, year on year, to 2.7 million.

Nevertheless, there have been some casualties. Wagadon fared particularly badly — its titles *Arena* and *Pace* both lost nearly 30 per cent of sales, while *Deluxe* closed after only eight months, at the end of 1998. Also badly hit was Emap's *Sky*, which lost 29.1 per cent of its circulation, a loss of 54,000 sales.

The most popular "laddish" titles, however, maintained their leads. Emap's *FHM*, IPC's *Loaded* and Dennis' *Maxim* all increased their circula-

tion. *FHM*, the overall market leader with 751,493 sales, climbed by more than 107,000 year on year. *Maxim* also piled on an impressive 29.2 per cent. Condé Nast's *GQ* achieved only a 2 per cent rise, although March's issue is expected to sell like hot cakes, thanks to the notoriety attributed to it through the departure of James Brown.

The women's monthly magazine market was less dramatic. Although the total circulation of the monthlies increased by 4.2 per cent, proportional losses and gains were generally smaller and the circulation of the sector's market leader, *G & J's Prima*, was substantially less than the men's top title. *FHM*. *Prima*'s closest rivals were Attic, Future's *Sugar* and NatMag's *Cosmopolitan*. Again, Condé Nast's titles did

not fare so well. Both *Tatler* and *Vanity Fair* lost sales, and *Vogue* increased its circulation by just 0.2 per cent. Wagadon's *Frank* had no year-on-year comparison as it launched only in September 1997, but compared with its previous period the title dropped 10.4 per cent of sales, to 37,233.

SouthBank's *Marie Claire* gained the most sales within the sector, achieving nearly 30,000 extra year on year.

■ *MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at <http://www.mediatel.co.uk> (071-439 7575)*

MEN'S LIFESTYLE ABC YoY COMPARISONS

TITLE	PUBLISHING COMPANY	Jul 97-Dec 97	Jul 98-Dec 98	% Ch
Arena	Wagadon	86,922	66,949	-26.9
Bizarre	John Brown Publishing	71,782	55,167	-32.6
Empire	National Magazine Co.	106,293	102,294	-3.7
Face	Wagadon	100,744	71,381	-29.1
FHM	EMAP	644,110	751,493	+16.7
Focus	Gruner & Jahr	85,482	68,762	-19.5
GQ	Condé Nast	129,294	132,225	+2.2
Loaded	IPC	441,567	457,318	+3.6
Max Power	EMAP	192,266	180,341	-6.3
Maxim	Dennis Publishing	249,096	321,947	+29.2
Men's Health	Rodale Press	225,126	283,359	+26.8
Skin	EMAP	188,981	132,480	-28.1
T3	Future Publishing	33,730	44,651	+32.4
TOTAL		2,553,203	2,708,117	6.1

TITLE	PUBLISHING COMPANY	Jul 97-Dec 97	Jul 98-Dec 98	% Ch
Frank	Wagadon	n/a	37,233	n/a
Harpers & Queen	National Magazine Co.	932,485	933,983	1.3
Looks	EMAP	115,479	136,340	+18.1
Marie Claire	IPC	415,590	445,289	+7.2
Max	EMAP	160,088	150,708	-5.9
New Woman	EMAP	268,449	261,950	-2.5
Prima	Gruner & Jahr	540,727	510,142	-5.7
Red	EMAP	n/a	173,082	n/a
She	National Magazine Co.	241,480	226,079	-5.4
Sugar	Attic/P			

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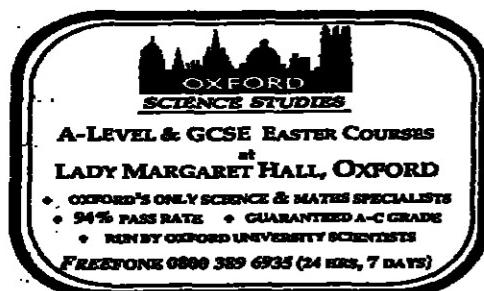
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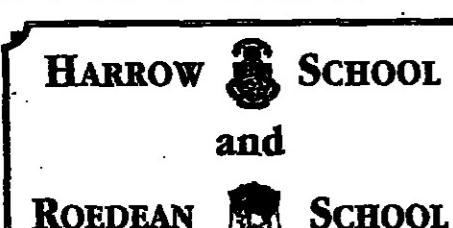
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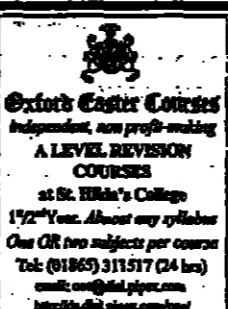
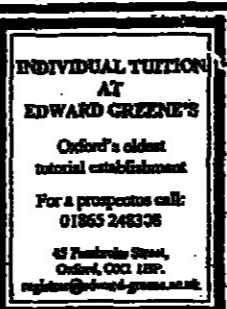
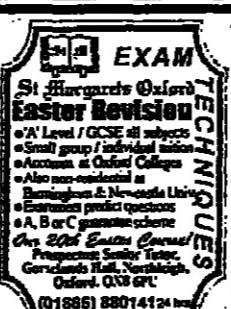
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THE TIMES EDUCATION



Helen Owen with her son Edmund: "There's no point in sending a child somewhere if he can't take the pace. You have to do what's right for your child"

Surviving the entrance exam

For seven-year-olds, and especially their parents, pressure to succeed can be unendurable, says **Stephanie Cooper**

A year ago, Edmund Owen, aged seven, failed to get a place at Dulwich College Prep School, Dulwich College and St Dunstan's, in South London. During the autumn term leading up to the entrance exam in January, he had been under pressure to perform well at Herne Hill, his prep school.

"The problem," says his mother, Helen, "was that Ed wasn't interested. He couldn't cope because of the stress and responded by becoming amazingly stubborn. He would say 'I don't want to do my school work' and he was highly uncooperative at the interviews. These schools want the brightest, the most sociable, with no educational problems at all."

Entrance exams are tough on parents, too. Dinner parties abound with tales of desperate tactics: one mother sent her son for aromatherapy to relax him before a prep school exam. Even those who have adopted a more conventional approach of intensive tutoring and a sustained charm often-

rive directed at the head teacher find the process nerve-racking.

So how can parents best help their children to cope with the pressure? Chris and Helen Owen considered other options for Edmund. They were prepared to move from Camberwell to Sevenoaks in Kent so that he could try for a school there. But first they took him to see an educational psychologist, who measured his IQ at 120.

"It was a question of Ed's attitude, not his ability," says Mrs Owen. So she started to take him out of school on Friday afternoons. "The psychologist explained that when I was working with Ed, I was giving him attention, which gave him more confidence. Then I persuaded St Dunstan's to see Ed at his own school. He thought they were just coming to say hello, and was calm about it. They thought he was charming and offered him a place."

Edmund has now settled in at St Dunstan's and is doing fine.

Chris and Helen have two

younger children to pass through the system; has their experience taught them anything? Mrs Owen says: "It was unrealistic, unfair, for Edmund to be part of the rat race. There's no point in sending a child somewhere if he can't take the pace. You have to do what's right for your child."

Dr. Derek Phillips, an educational psychologist, believes that examination stress can cause the greatest problems of behaviour, such as bed-wetting, nightmares and violent tantrums. If the parents feel tense, it is easy for the tension to be transmitted to the child. He adds: "Parents think something is wrong with the child, but it's usually an external force; almost always the child is reacting to the stress of the situation. Sometimes the child rebels. Parents need to reduce the pressure and allow their children to work at their own pace, with plenty of positive reinforcement."

Barbara Bidakowska's daughter Annabel, aged eight, goes to a state primary school in South London. This week Annabel took the entrance examination for Wimbledon High School. "I was tense," says Mrs Bidakowska, "but I tried not to pass it on to her."

Mrs Bidakowska is worried about the contrast between the child's usual school work and the entrance exam. "The levels are completely different," she says: "When Annabel's friends, who go to private schools, come to the house, I look at their books and their work is much more advanced. So for the past year Annabel has had a tutor and for the past few weeks she has done extra maths, reasoning, writing, spelling, two hours with the tutor each week and practice interviews."

Her tutor, Emma Middleton, is an experienced teacher. She believes that preparation for the entrance exam should be fun and should make children feel confident. During each session she offers plenty of praise and, at the end, her parting phrase is: "Do you believe you can do this?" To

which the child replies "Yes". "I believe you can, too," says Emma, giving the child a gold star.

Schools sensitive to the pressures on children and parents can also help. At Portsmouth Grammar School staff try to defuse the intense atmosphere created by anxious parents.

Richard Matrith, headmaster of Lower School, says: "The entrance exam is more stressful for the parents than

the children because it is competitive. We go out of our way to ensure that it is not too traumatic. A video of *The Lion King* is on for them when they arrive, then the parents say goodbye and leave them in our tender care. The interview is held a week before the exam. The children like to talk about their interests and hobbies; it's not too intense."

● The author is a former deputy head teacher in South London.

Taking a trip too far?

Exursions should involve learning, not just fun, argues **Susan Elkin**

It's time we rethought the purpose of school excursions? A skiing trip can cost parents hundreds of pounds. And what about the schools that whisk their charges off to Disneyland Paris — or Alton Towers, Legoland, Thorpe Park or Blackpool? Such theme parks have, inevitably, leapt on the bandwagon by producing education packs and "materials" to justify it all.

School trips are big business. But is the money spent by parents in inverse proportion to the educational benefit? In 1958 when I was a pupil at a London County Council junior school, my name was drawn to go on a school journey to the Isle of Wight for two weeks. Throughout the preceding winter we had systematic preparatory after-school lessons from the teacher in charge. I had a clear mental map of the island before I even stepped off the ferry, not to mention knowing that Queen Victoria had died at Osborne House and why The Needles are so-called. We went out daily to see and do things, and much of that "cross-curricular" learning is with me still. It was a model of what a school trip should be.

Today schools seem to be vying to see which can offer its pupils the most glamorous "holiday", even though there is much to be learnt close by



All play and no work: pupils are used to outings where the emphasis is not educational

without having to go anywhere exotic, especially for younger children. Why take pupils canoeing in Sweden if you can do it for less than half the price on the Wye? Why go to Barcelona to look at art if you haven't explored the art resources in the nearest city?

If schools looked more often at cheaper options, perhaps more children could afford to be included. The typical school ski trip is too expensive for a pupil whose family is on a low, or even average, income. On the other hand, if the family can afford it, they might just as well take the child themselves.

If a school does take pupils to faraway places, then it should squeeze every possible

drop of learning into the experience — as Wells Cathedral School in Somerset is doing. In March, ten 16 and 17-year-olds are to go to the state of Meghalaya in north India, where they will explore uncharted caves. Teachers are not spoon-feeding — the pupils are making their own arrangements.

Anything that develops such entrepreneurial skills is surely a fine learning experience. Any parent should ask one key question when trying to assess the value of a school trip: "What will my child learn from taking part?" There is bound to be an entertainment factor, too, but let it not obscure the main purpose of anything to which a school puts its name: education.

Louise LeFluhy, who is 16 and lives in Yeovil, has persuaded the Bournemouth Sym-

phony Orchestra to play a concert in her home town in support of her school's Meghalaya project.

Louise says: "I organised the tickets and did the administrative work, and a school friend played a bassoon concerto with the orchestra as part of the concert."

They have prepared a press release — a bit of a cry from doing it as a sterile part of a media studies course — and are organising their own visas and flights. They also have to raise £1,000 each in sponsorship.

Louise LeFluhy, who is 16 and lives in Yeovil, has per-

sisted the Bourne-

mouth Symphony

Orchestra to play a con-

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Stop the Baker days

Parents hate them. Children don't understand them. Even teachers have come to resent them. So why do we shut down our schools for five "Baker days" a year?

Schools are open far too little as it is. No other public service throws its customers out onto the streets at 3pm or 3.15pm. Our shopping centres are awash with moolah children for almost half the daylight hours. Teachers actually teach for only half the year, so why do we bow to the teaching unions and close down our schools for another whole week?

The days were conceded in 1987 by Kenneth Baker who, like all Tory Secretaries of State before him, wanted to buy peace. He got teachers back to work by offering them less work, cunningly called "non-contact time". Five days a year were designated as training days (an admission that teachers were not previously properly trained) and justified by the need to prepare for the national curriculum.

Almost at once the abuse began. Museum visits became retraining. "Maths in Islamic art" and "Hats & Headgear" were two one-day courses offered by the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Take the new proposals on pay: head teachers will still be allowed to reward performance only according to strict national guidelines. Anybody who thinks that this document is about local initiative should wade through the 123 technical paragraphs about upper salary spines, consolidated steps, threshold assessments and all the rest of it. Local, it is not.

If our 24,000 schools were really run by their heads, wouldn't just one of them come up with a more professional system of in-service training? Give heads the £137 million and the choice, and let's see them make the difference.

MICHAEL FALLON.

● The author is Conservative MP for Sevenoaks.

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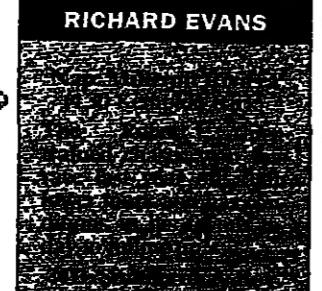
CHANGING TIMES

RACING: FORMER HUNTER CHASER NOT EXTENDED TO MAINTAIN CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP HOPES

By CHRIS MCGRATH

FEW walks of sporting life could find expectations so mischievously as racing, but at Wincanton yesterday Double Thriller could devise no way of ending his superiority in the Jim Ford Challenge Cup. The Martell Grand National favourite could have incorporated a lap of honour and still routed his three rivals.

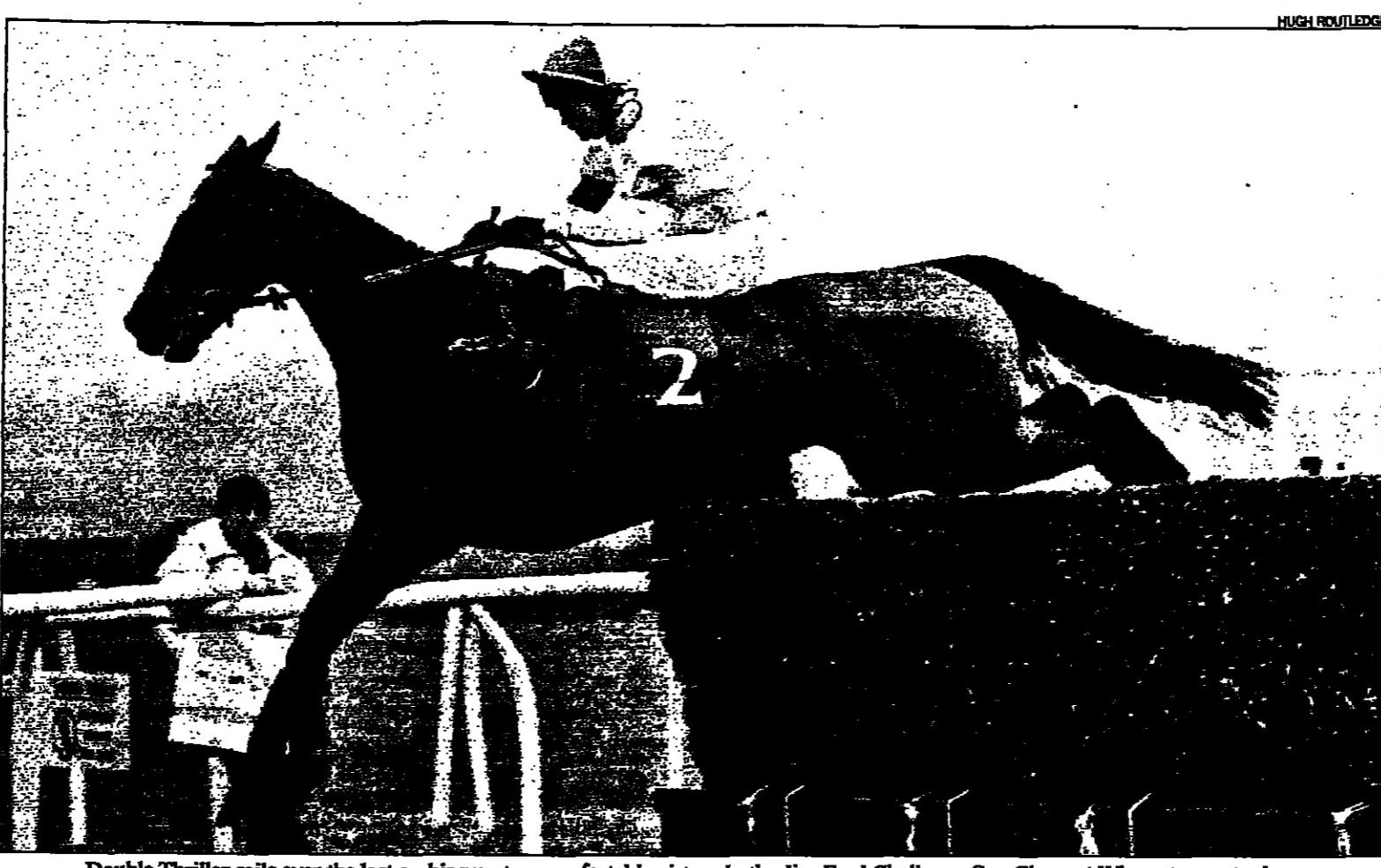
It was as though an auditorium had been filled merely by the opportunity to watch the conductor take the rostrum. At no stage did he threaten to lose his footing and tumble into the pit, his young rider's principal problem being to keep Double Thriller from becoming too bored in front.



RICHARD EVANS

Joe Tizzard, just 18, will assume a rather sterner responsibility next time he rides Double Thriller, who seeks to keep the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup in the West Country after Cool Dawn's success last year. That horse popped up at 25-1 and Tizzard will be under proportionately more pressure, with Double Thriller quoted at 8-1 by the sponsor—as indeed he is by William Hill, though the latter's decision to cut him from 10-1 on the basis of yesterday's performance is hard to fathom. The same firm trimmed him to 7-1 for Aintree.

Double Thriller will certainly look the part in the Cheltenham paddock. Just as when he had made his debut for Paul Nicholls here last month, physically he was a different cali-



Double Thriller sails over the last on his way to a comfortable victory in the Jim Ford Challenge Cup Chase at Wincanton yesterday

bre of animal. This time, he is perched on the hoistier, swaying his hips aggressively along the catwalk.

Double Thriller was in front at the first and, though a little ponderous at the same fence on the next circuit, spent the rest of the race perfumitorily extending his lead. The least embarrassed of his rivals, Wayward King, probably did not stay the trip.

"I kept slapping him down the neck to wake him up," Tizzard said. "His ears were flapping about and he wasn't really concentrating. He'd be better off with a bit of competi-

tion, but he won't be short of that at Cheltenham."

While yesterday's excursion did little to sharpen his competitive edge for Florida Pearl and Teeton Mill, at least Nichols retains a fresh horse. "I can keep dreaming and you lot can keep guessing," he told the winner's enclosure huddle. "He would be better off with a bit of company and, being such a relentless galloper, with a fast-run race. But he hasn't had a hard time and for a big horse he puts himself in right, doesn't he? He has done a lot of hunting."

Double Thriller's defeat of

Teeton Mill during their hunter chasing days, at Cheltenham last spring, still raises as many questions as it answers.

It has been suggested that the grey, newly recruited by Venetia Williams, was unfit but Nichols pointed out that Double Thriller — then trained by his stepmother, owner, Reg Wilkins — was now an equally different proposition.

"Reg had enormous problems getting him fit last season," he said. "The horse drove a nail into his foot in January. If either was unfit, I'd say it was this one. Obviously, Venetia has improved Teeton

Mill, but I'd like to think this horse has improved as well."

The other Festival trial, the Axminster 100 Kingwell Hurdle, also fell to an odds-on favourite, though Grey Shot all but drained his reserves of courage to hang on by 2½ lengths from Midnight Legend. With Festive setting off at a ludicrous pace, Jamie Osborne sensibly waited until two out before taking it up. In the process he made the worst of several mistakes and he wandered, exhausted, on the run-in. He remains 25-1 for the Smurfit Champion Hurdle.

"We didn't see the best of him today," Osborne confirmed. "He struggled in the sticky ground."

There was a time when people in this part of the country asked to name the strapping local chaser that might one day win a Gold Cup, would have answered: "Copper Boy". Unhappily, Bob Buckler, his trainer, disclosed that the best horse he has trained will not race again, having suffered another leg injury on his reappearance at Newbury. Even with the best horses, jump racing is seldom as straightforward as Double Thriller made it look yesterday.

MARKE RASEN

THUNDERER
2.00 Broadband 2.30 Treasure Again. 3.05 Luke Warm. 3.35 Cinder Hills. 4.10 Sad Mad Bad. 4.40 Adaramann. 5.10 African Sun.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 EBF NH NOVICES HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (E2.116; 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)

1-831 BACK ON THE LASH (9) Mrs V Williams 7-1-5
2-54 BALLYMOLLY 24 M Pigeon 6-1-0 R Green 15
3-2 BROADBAND 5m Ps 5-1-3 Mr J Williams 15
4-300 BEEF AND BONE 20 (9) Mrs V Williams 6-1-0 R Green 15
5-400 FOUNTAIN 20 (9) Mrs V Williams 6-1-0 R Green 15
6-400 GRADHAM'S WINTER 5-1-0 D Fletcher 15
7-620 GREAT POTENTIAL 20 (9) Mrs V Williams 6-1-0 R Green 15
8-400 HAMPTON 17 (9) Mrs V Williams 6-1-0 R Green 15
9-600 HARRY HOTSPUR 8-1 V Williams 5-1-0 R Green 15
10-400 KEDMEYER 5-1-0 R Green 15
11-400 LADY LUCILLE 5-1-0 R Green 15
12-400 MONSTER MOUNTAIN 5-1-0 R Green 15
13-400 PEGGY'S BOSS 5-1-0 R Green 15
14-400 RUMBLE 11 (9) Mrs V Williams 5-1-0 R Green 15
15-400 SPICER 11 (9) Mrs V Williams 5-1-0 R Green 15
16-400 TERRIBLE T 11 (9) Mrs V Williams 5-1-0 R Green 15
3-Back On The Lash, 2-Broadband, 7-1 Lash Out, Keshie, 8-1 Ballymolly Bay, Finn Wile, 10-1 Hotspur, 12-1 others.

2.30 ERIC & LUCY PAPWORTH HANDICAP CHASE (F4.124; 3m 1f 110yd) (11)

1-1000 GOLD SENT 20 (G) Mr J Corlett 10-1 D Corlett 10-1
2-1000 PEGGY EXEMPLAR 20 (G) Mrs J Corlett 10-1 D Corlett 10-1
3-1100 TONY'S RIVER 20 (G) Mrs J Corlett 10-1 D Corlett 10-1
4-6000 MASTERS 19 (G) Mrs J Corlett 10-1 D Corlett 10-1
5-4000 TREASURE AGAIN 19 (G) Mrs J Corlett 10-1 D Corlett 10-1
6-4000 TERRIBLE T 19 (G) Mrs J Corlett 10-1 D Corlett 10-1
7-4000 F-SPERIC 19 (G) Mrs J Corlett 10-1 D Corlett 10-1
8-4000 SPICER 19 (G) Mrs J Corlett 10-1 D Corlett 10-1
9-4000 TERRIBLE T 19 (G) Mrs J Corlett 10-1 D Corlett 10-1
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14-4000 TERRIBLE T 19 (G) Mrs J Corlett 10-1 D Corlett 10-1
15-4000 TERRIBLE T 19 (G) Mrs J Corlett 10-1 D Corlett 10-1

3.05 TOTE HANDICAP CHASE (F6.873; 2m 4f) (4)

1-1100 CANTERFIELD 7 (G) Mrs V Williams 10-1-11
2-1000 CYBORG DE BEAUFORT 48 (G) Mrs L Taylor 10-1-11
3-2010 NISAN 100 (G) Mrs V Williams 8-10-10
4-2120 LUXE WARM 25 (G) Mrs V Williams 9-10-3 G Bradley 116

3-1100 TOTE'S 7-3 Prime Example, 6-1 Master Tick, Treasure Agent, 7-1 State Rover, 8-1 Safe Guard, 10-1 Cutfield, 14-1 others

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Cummins comes of age with Leeds

Christopher Irvine
talks to a rugby
league player with
a big future

Francis Cummins is 22, yet he is into his seventh season with Leeds. He is easily the longest-serving player at Headingley and the only one left, after many upheavals, with any working knowledge of Ellery Hanley, who revisits his old stamping ground with his St Helens side in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup tomorrow.

The shy, gangly youth from Dewsbury, whom Hanley took under his wing at 16 and who makes his 150th appearance for Leeds in the eagerly-awaited fifth-round tie, announced his arrival with two tries away to Hull Kingston Rovers in September 1993. Hanley scored a hat-trick that day.

"I was in awe of these guys — Ellery, Garry Schofield, Alan Tait. I got to share the same corner of the changing-room with Ellery, whose sheer professionalism just taught me so much," Cummins said. "There is as much chance of the plegmatic Hanley being overwhelmed by nostalgia tomorrow as of Cummins laying down the law in the dressing-room ('I've never been pushy that way'), which leads Cummins to conclude that Hanley will apply the same impeccable logic and stringent detail that assisted his own early learning process. 'Any fond memories will be for afterwards,' he added.

It was as the youngest player in a Challenge Cup final, at 17 years and 200 days, that Cummins was in danger of being best-known until coming of age with a strike-rate of 26 tries in the JJB Super League and selection by Great Britain on the wing against New Zealand last season. That, and a length-of-the-field try that would have graced any cup triumph, except that Martin Offiah had already blazed a trail of glory for Wigan with two of the best tries seen at Wembley.

For Cummins, defeat in the 1994 final was not as hard to swallow for an awestruck apprentice on £35 a week as it was for the senior players, whose boots he still had to clean. When the same occurred at Wembley the next year, it maintained an unhappy sequence of finishing runners-up to Wigan, including the Super League Grand Final last year. With Wigan removed from the cup equation by the Rhinos 12 days ago, the tempta-

tion to look ahead to Wembley would have been hard to resist in the past. "This Leeds team would beat any other I've been in, including the Ellery era. There were great flair individuals then, but you've only to see the aggression in defence to notice the difference now," he said.

Doug Laughton had his critics during four years as coach of Leeds, in which he made Cummins an apprentice on the basis of ten minutes play on a park pitch, but his youth policy at a club that had been notorious for paying lots of money for ordinary performers in a search for instant success is now reaping the rewards of long-term investment.

While Cummins feels indebted to Laughton — "some players have called him man, but he was a brilliant man-manager," he said — there is no doubt his progress under Graham Murray, the Rhinos' Australian coach.

After several years as a maverick in the side, he never quite showed, in Murray's first season, the explosiveness and competitive hunger that had marked him out as a special player.

"I was disappointed at what I saw during the cup match we lost to Castleford last season, but he's come on and deserved his Great Britain selection," Murray said.



Cummins came under the wing of Ellery Hanley, the former Leeds star, at 16 and now, at 22, he is the longest-serving player at the club

"He has the pace and skill, while his defence has improved 50 per cent. He has had a great off-season and is looking stronger and more committed than ever."

The 6ft beanoop has fleshed out to 14st 7lb. Cummins regards him-

self as fortunate. To have had Craig Innes, the former All Black, alongside him when he began at Leeds, and now another fine centre in Brad Godden, an Australian whose dazzling footwork complements his clever running on the left side of the

field, has brought the best out in him. "I don't think Brad or Craig could do it for an average wing, because Franru is much more than that. He's the potential to finish off any sort of move," Murray said. There is a tendency, too, to forget

that although an established part of the Headingley furniture, Cummins still has a long way to travel up the learning curve. As someone who once stood on the Leeds terraces, no one appreciates the expectations there better.

BADMINTON: BRITONS ENJOY DAY OF SUCCESS IN WORLD GRAND PRIX FINALS

Morgan moves into overdrive

BY RICHARD EATON

KELLY MORGAN, the first British woman singles player for eight years to qualify for the World Grand Prix finals, secured one of the best wins of her career when she defeated Yasuka Mizui, the world No. 9, in Brunel yesterday.

The 23-year-old from Cardiff, who is also the first Welsh player to reach the grand prix finals, produced a stirring comeback to win 4-11, 11-7, 11-5 against a Japanese opponent who has been one of the circuit's most notable climbers. Morgan could herself climb from her position of world No 13 back into a top ten that she has only once previously, and briefly, occupied.

Morgan was shaky at the start and made a few too many mistakes in an attempt to force the pace, but she was more patient in the second

game and her play gradually became more solid. In the third, she had more freedom to attack and the longer it went on the more she dictated the course of the rallies. It was

a fine performance by Morgan, although her chances of reaching the knockout stages have been undermined by an earlier defeat by the world silver medal-winner, Gong Zhichao of China.

However, Simon Archer, of England, could find himself in the final rounds of two doubles events after his two successes.

He and Chris Hunt will do that today if they beat another Indonesian partnership, Tony Gunawan and Haryanto Halim.

Archer's second option is in the mixed doubles, in which he and Joanne Goode gave themselves a chance of qualifying from their group after a highly encouraging 15-8, 7-15, 15-5 win over two more Indonesians, Trikus Herianto and Minarti Timur, the former World Grand Prix title-holders.

"It has been difficult for them knowing that there is no

future in what they are doing after this week," Andy Wood, the England coach, said. "But halfway through the second game they came to life and then played really well. They now believe they can qualify from their group."

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Results, page 57

Morgan: on the rise



BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with The Times:
Lesson 45 - More bids with extra values

Last week I started to look at rebids with strong hands and I gave some examples of strong balanced hands and strong single-suited hands.

What would you bid on the following hands after you opened One Heart and partner rebid One Spade?

(A) ♠ AK65 (B) ♠ 6 (C) ♠ KJ5
♥ A10552 (D) ♠ AK1086 (E) ♠ AQ1054
♦ KJ3 (F) ♠ AK1065 (G) ♠ AQ5
♣ 6 (H) ♠ A4 (I) ♠ 5

With **Hand (A)** you have a fine hand in support of spades. You have 15 HCP and a singleton which may be worth something extra (more on hand evaluation in a later article). Show partner this with a jump to Three Spades. **Hand (B)** is tremendously strong with 19 HCP and two five-card suits. Surely you must have a good chance of game even if partner has very little. Rather than make a simple Two Diamond rebid which would not be forcing, jump to Three Diamonds. A jump in a new suit is played as forcing to game so partner won't pass and you can investigate your best contract. **Hand (C)** is tricky. Although you have significant extra values you cannot bid Three Diamonds because you are not strong enough to force a game facing a minimum partner. Bid a simple Two Diamonds. If partner bids again you will show your extra strength and spade support.

(D) ♠ AK65 (E) ♠ AK65 (F) ♠ QJ3
♥ A10552 (G) ♠ AK10954 (H) ♠ QK7654
♦ K3 (I) ♠ 54 (J) ♠ A5
♣ 6 (K) ♠ 3 (L) ♠ 5

Hand (D) is nearly an ace stronger than **Hand (A)** above. Don't give partner the opportunity to pass Three Spades, bid Four Spades yourself. **Hands (E) and (F)** are examples of a very important principle of bidding unbalanced hands: distribution is more important than high-card points. With **Hand (E)**, although you have only 14 HCP, partner needs as little as QJxx in spades for Four Spades to be a good contract, so bid it directly. Again, do not give him the chance to stop short of game. **Hand (F)** is also very powerful and has been improved by partner's One Spade bid. Four Hearts will be a reasonable contract if he has as little as the king of spades and only a singleton heart. Again, do not give him the chance to stop short of game — bid it yourself.

You can get any lesson you may have missed from this beginners' course by sending two 20p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Totteridge Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NASEL

- a. A nose-guard
- b. A bat
- c. An engine-casing

POLYPRACTIC

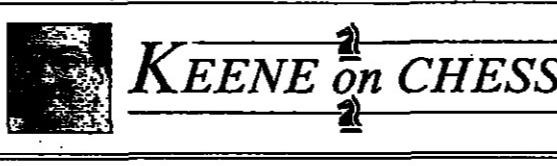
- a. Producing polyps
- b. Officious
- c. Having more than ten sides

NIGON

- a. A salt water crocodile
- b. Maize bread
- c. A niggard

PARASANG

- a. A quiver for arrows
- b. A dance
- c. About 3 miles



BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Oxford v Cambridge

This year's annual contest between Oxford University and Cambridge University will be held at the RAC in Pall Mall on Saturday, March 6. The respective team line-ups are as follows:

Cambridge

Brian Kelly (Trinity), Harriet Hunt (St John's), Mark Ferguson (Queen's), Karl Mah (Pembroke), James Vigus (St Dunstan's), David Moskovitch (Queen's), Aron Cohen (Queen's), Nathan Alfred (King's).

Oxford

Dharshan Kumaran (Green), Jonathan Rowson (Keble), Aleksander Trifunovich (St Anne's), Oliver Rosten (Somerville), Benjamin Savage (Lady Margaret), Joel Quaintance (Cross), Kieran Smallbone (New), Emily Howard (Lincoln).

With **Hand (A)** you have a fine hand in support of spades. You have 15 HCP and a singleton which may be worth something extra (more on hand evaluation in a later article). Show partner this with a jump to Three Spades. **Hand (B)** is tremendously strong with 19 HCP and two five-card suits. Surely you must have a good chance of game even if partner has very little. Rather than make a simple Two Diamond rebid which would not be forcing, jump to Three Diamonds. A jump in a new suit is played as forcing to game so partner won't pass and you can investigate your best contract. **Hand (C)** is tricky. Although you have significant extra values you cannot bid Three Diamonds because you are not strong enough to force a game facing a minimum partner. Bid a simple Two Diamonds. If partner bids again you will show your extra strength and spade support.

(D) ♠ AK65 (E) ♠ AK65 (F) ♠ QJ3
♥ A10552 (G) ♠ AK10954 (H) ♠ QK7654
♦ K3 (I) ♠ 54 (J) ♠ A5
♣ 6 (K) ♠ 3 (L) ♠ 5

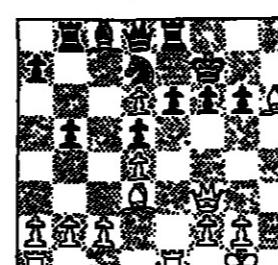
Hand (D) is nearly an ace stronger than **Hand (A)** above. Don't give partner the opportunity to pass Three Spades, bid Four Spades yourself. **Hands (E) and (F)** are examples of a very important principle of bidding unbalanced hands: distribution is more important than high-card points. With **Hand (E)**, although you have only 14 HCP, partner needs as little as QJxx in spades for Four Spades to be a good contract, so bid it directly. Again, do not give him the chance to stop short of game. **Hand (F)** is also very powerful and has been improved by partner's One Spade bid. Four Hearts will be a reasonable contract if he has as little as the king of spades and only a singleton heart. Again, do not give him the chance to stop short of game — bid it yourself.

You can get any lesson you may have missed from this beginners' course by sending two 20p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Totteridge Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Godena-Cacco, Italy 1998. Black is trying to defend himself with a solid wall of pawns in front of his king. How did White dismantle this protection with a fine sequence?



Solution on page 58

New interest rates for Halifax customers.

The Halifax announces new interest rates for savings customers.

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ACCOUNT	Non-resident rates*		Non-personal rates*	
	CURRENT AER %	RATES FROM 01/03/99 GROSS P.A. %	CURRENT AER %	RATES FROM 01/03/99 GROSS P.A. %
60 DAY GOLD	5.60	5.60	5.05	5.05
£10,000+	5.20	5.20	4.65	4.65
£50,000+	4.85	4.85	4.30	4.30
£100,000+	4.60	4.60	4.10	4.10
£250,000+	3.90	3.90	3.40	3.40
Monthly Income Option	5.60	5.46	5.05	4.94
£10,000+	5.20	5.08	4.65	4.55
£50,000+	4.85	4.75	4.30	4.22
£100,000+	4.60	4.51	4.09	4.02
£250,000+	3.90	3.83	3.40	3.35
SOLID GOLD	3.85	3.85	3.20	3.80
£50,000+	3.75	3.75	3.20	3.70
£100,000+	3.55	3.55	3.00	3.65
£250,000+	3.35	3.35	2.80	3.40
£500+	3.05	3.05	2.45	3.05
LIQUID GOLD	2.75	2.75	2.05	2.65
£25,000+	2.65	2.65	2.05	2.60
£50,000+	2.55	2.55	1.95	2.50
£100,000+	2.45	2.45	1.85	2.35
£250,000+	2.35	2.35	1.8	

Scotland making light of perceived shortcomings

The Five Nations Championship is already weaving its delicate and enticing web, for nothing is quite as might have been expected. Both France and England, the bigwigs of the past decade, were, on the evidence of their first outings, not themselves.

While the chances are that they will improve, Scotland and Ireland, on the other hand, are firing on all cylinders. Even though they have lost a match each, on very narrow calls indeed, they know that, for their own lack of kicking boots, they could have been in the very happy and rare position of being the chased in the championship table and not, as is usually their misfortune, the hapless chasers.

For Wales, there does not any longer appear to be the consolation of being included even among the chasers. Graham Henry, the coach, has admitted that after two failures they are effectively out of the running. The sudden drop from the level of their achievement against South Africa is puzzling.

How could the same group of players that performed so well in the autumn have been so disappointing? Yet still, and there are those who might scoff at the suggestion, Wales have produced periods of collective attack that the other teams have not matched, other than perhaps England during the opening bombardment against Scotland.

Purple patches may have been, but they were far too brief to savor properly. One of the problems for Wales is that they commit

Gerald Davies assesses the state of play after the first two rounds of the Five Nations Championship

too many mistakes of the most basic kind: knock-ons, split balls, losing possession one way or another. Henry cannot be held responsible for these sort of errors, however much there are those who wish to point an accusing finger at him. Even without variety in the line-out, which they lack, or without the confidence in the scrum, which is needed, Wales could still have managed to make a better impression in the tournaments if not for the unforced errors that were absent against South Africa.

Still, it is nibble Scotland who are the surprise package. Here is a country whose domestic rugby is

in a deeper recession than that of Wales and yet, for all their internal difficulties, the national team is performing with a sharp and cutting edge inspired almost.

Scotland's play is constantly a palpable expression of their pride and honour. There is a standard, they seem to declare boldly, below which they must never fall, however fragile they may appear.

Each player in his fashion plays to his capacity so that the whole, which can always be counted on to include a player or two of flair and genius, is often far more impressive than the workaday bits and pieces that first impressions might suggest. Their resolve never wavers.

They are manifestly moved, too, by the Five Nations tournament itself in a way they appear not to be for other internationals. Whatever travails they may experience, whatever their shortcomings may be, they count for nothing when the Five Nations comes around.

It invariably brings out the best in them. But there is more to it than simply a passion that bugs unquestioningly to the flag. The Scots are extraordinarily acute rugby thinkers on their feet. The game brightens their eager eyes with intelligence.

They had planned the downfall of Wales in many a dingy dressing-room. Many fine, and not-so-fine words would have been spoken. Yet the art is to modify the plot in the light of what the opposition may or may not do on the padock. The perceived weakness may not, in the event, turn out to be the actual weakness, nor will the expected strength prove to be the real strength.

The Scots have the capacity to respond accordingly. If the opposition commits an error, they react spontaneously in the open spaces, getting two or three players swiftly into position in a way that might have been encouraged by their love of sevens, to which, of course they gave birth. There is always a sense of relief and release that the tight game is behind them.

Against Wales and England, when they were forced to cope with sustained onslaughts, Scottish heads did not drop and when they sprung from their defensive positions, they seemed to be able to out-think their opponents.

For all the control that coaching attempts to impose, and the presbyterian influence in their background, there is a refreshingly maverick side to Scottish rugby. Intuitively, they can break out of the shackles that clearly hindered their opponents so far, England and Wales, whose players seem to have difficulty thinking on their feet.

Scotland's next two matches, against Ireland and France, will present different examinations. It will be intriguing to see what answers they can come up with.

RUGBY UNION

Clubs make their point over cup

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH rugby, which made such a chaotic start to the season, will begin on schedule next season and will play through the World Cup, but with a revised points system to compensate leading Allied Dunbar Premiership clubs whose players are faking part in the global tournament.

Premiership matches played in the first third of the season will be worth two points for a victory, in the last two thirds they will be worth three points and only one club will be relegated, but after a two-leg play-off with the leading club in the second division.

English First-Division Rugby (EFDR) decided that the tournament being played in the home unions and France must be used as a marketing tool rather than leaving the domestic game to start three months late, in November.

EFDR's decision will not meet with universal approval, but at least the clubs have emerged with a firm proposition. It is a system that recognises the disruption of the World Cup but, at the same time, allows professional clubs to stay open for business.

However, Saracens are suggesting that a specific tournament should be organised to cover the first 12 weeks of next season. They contend that the World Cup will divert far too many spectators, via television, if not directly. "We will not rock the boat because if there is a two-thirds majority, you go along with it," Nigel Wray, the chairman, said.

"But we will put up a paper suggesting only a conference system, seven teams in each, to be played after the World Cup, with, say, an Allied Dunbar shield going on during the tournament." Tom Walkinshaw, the EFDR chairman, said yesterday that promoting the game around the World Cup would be good for spectators. He will also have in mind the hope

that English clubs will be restored to European competition over the next three weeks, and that Europe will almost certainly be the first competition to be played once the World Cup is complete.

Walkinshaw, the Gloucester owner, is confident that by the end of March a complete framework for the domestic game will be in place, which will feature a healthy Allied Dunbar Premiership and Europe for the top five clubs.

"We hope that, over the season, things will level out," he said. "If the World Cup could be played in the close season, for each hemisphere, that would be ideal but it's something we have to live with. There is no way we can shut businesses down for three or four months, the international players are only a small part of most people's squads."

In between now and the fifth World Cup, in 2003, Walkinshaw clearly expects the size of the first division to be reduced from 14 to 12, if not ten, possibly through natural wastage if such mergers as that proposed between Bristol and London Scottish go ahead. There is a central fund in place that would offer a "golden parachute" to any club that felt it could not sustain a first-division presence, though Walkinshaw stressed no club had yet applied for it.

However, considering the many disagreements that have ensued in the British Isles has endured this season, Walkinshaw was remarkably optimistic about the immediate future. He believes that behind-the-scenes discussions will resolve the positions of the two Welsh breakaway clubs, Cardiff and Swansea, and that a document put forward by France and England will, with minor adjustments, allow the English back into Europe. "We have indicated to the union that we want to be part of Europe next season," he said.



Play did not follow the formbook at the women's indoor championships when several leading bowlers were knocked out

Proudfoot waits for his chance

By ALASDAIR REED

THE Scotland players on duty at Twickenham on Saturday were given a ringing vote of confidence yesterday when all 22 were included in the squad to play Italy at Murrayfield field tomorrow week.

Such was the satisfaction among the selectors that they would not drop any player to make way for Matthew Proudfoot, the Edinburgh Reivers' fight-head prop, who has been added to the party.

Proudfoot may still replace Paul Burnell against Italy after Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, assesses his form for the Scottish Districts against Northampton on Saturday.

SQUAD: Backs: G Armstrong (Newcastle Falcons), C Chisholm (Edinburgh), P Hall (London Wasps), G Jackson (Glasgow Celts), G Jenkins (Cardiff), S Longstaff (Glasgow Celts), C Murray (London Wasps), S Murray (Edinburgh), D Pritchard (Edinburgh), A Ravid (Wasps), T Smith (Glasgow Celts), P Walton (Newcastle Falcons).

Ashby falls at the first hurdle

By DAVID RHYS JONES

CAROL ASHBY, the champion, was the first to falter on a day of surprising results at the Isca Centre in Exeter, a new venue for the women's national indoor bowls championship.

Ashby, from Eastbourne, who won the singles title at Potters Leisure Resort, Norfolk, last winter and went on to reach the final of the world indoor singles championship at Llanelli, was defeated in the first round by Sharon Rickman, who has been an England regular since 1987.

"I knew it was going to be a tough match," Rickman said. "I just hung in there for the first half, and it was only when I opted for a dead short

jack length that I got on top in the final stages." In a desperately close encounter, the scores were level six times before Rickman, 12-11, adrift, played her joker and pinned her faith on those minimum lengths. Four ends later, she was 18-12 in front, and, although Ashby closed to 18-16, Rickman got home with a treble on the 21st end.

Rickman, a civil servant from Tolworth, who works for the Ministry of Defence, has already won the national junior singles and senior champion of champions titles twice each. She finished the day as firm favourite to win the blue

Hunt, who now plays for the Newton Hall club, Blackpool, lost to Mary Price in the final five years ago and skipped a Swinton quartet to the national fours title the same year.

Barber had caused an upset

by beating Jayne Roylance, from North Walsham, the 1993 champion, 21-9 in the first round, while Marilyn Crane, from Clacton-on-Sea, defeated Edna Bessell, the 1988 runner-up, 21-9.

Rickman will face another tough challenge in the semi-finals this morning from Di Hunt, one of the leading crown green players, who has so impressed the national selectors on the flat that she will be making her international debut in Belfast next month.

Two doubles and a treble took Hiom to the brink of victory, but she dropped a double on the 27th end to trail 19-21 before completing her great escape with another double on the 28th.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 0111405 of 1999
NOTICE TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE
COMPANY COMMISSIONER
IN THE MATTER OF
LIMITED

THE COMPANIES ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT
the 19th day of February 1999
is the date on which the
shareholders of the company
will receive notice of the
reduction of the share capital
of £1,000,000.00 to £1,000,000.00
and the cancellation of
the share premium account of
£250,000.00 and the cancellation
of the capital reduction
account of £250,000.00.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN
that the 19th day of February 1999
is the date on which the
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FOOTBALL

Clubs may face 5pm kick-offs in Uefa Cup

FROM ROB HUGHES IN GENEVA

THE clock is fast ticking away on the European club football format for next season and there is an unpalatable shock in store. To suit television demands across 51 nations, British clubs could find themselves kicking off at 5pm in the expanded Uefa Cup competition, although European Cup Champions' League matches will remain at 7.45pm.

The new format will see the Champions' League played over two evenings – initially Tuesdays and Wednesdays – and comprising 164 clubs to play a total of 526 matches.

English clubs represented at a Uefa workshop here yesterday were Arsenal, Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea, and none of them warmed to the prospect of asking supporters to break the habit of a lifetime and turn up for earlier kick-offs.

Uefa, the European governing body, had tried to consult with its leading clubs, but it was not the most successful of exercises. It appears that each nation on the Continent has different habits, different ideas of the time to fill their stadia and different priorities regarding customer satisfaction.

There was even one suggestion, from Portugal, that the market value of clubs be used to decide the seedings – an idea rejected by Gerhard Aigner, the Uefa general secretary, who insisted that merit had to govern the rankings.

However, when three clubs – Paris Saint-Germain, Bayer Leverkusen and Manchester United – made presentations, more was gleaned about the future. Speaking for the Parisian club, Lionel Dicksler, the controller of the Parc des Princes, confirmed attempts to persuade supporters to trek north of the city to use the new Stade de France. Perhaps unconvincingly, Dicksler suggested that the future lies not with supporters

but "spectator clients" and he outlined a modern marketing venture that uses the stadium as the nerve centre of what could appear, sinisterly, like exploitation. – Opel is the main sponsor of the club and Dicksler suggested that PSG could use computer data on their clients so that Opel would know precisely who were its potential buyers.

Bayer Leverkusen, although owned by the giant chemical firm, outlined a more enlightened approach concerning supporters. They can seat only 22,500 in the BayArena, but with comforts of centrally heated seating and with so special an emphasis on children and youth that they literally have a kindergarden-to-adulthood philosophy smoothly in place.

For Manchester United, Peter Kenyon, a director, had a message of expansion from a club already the envy of most. The planned enlargement of Old Trafford to seat 67,000 by 2000 – adding to the £90 million already spent on the stadium since 1992 – will create another 12,000 places, each of which will be designated to match-by-match ticket purchases as opposed to the season-ticket and corporate hospitality market.

United, Kenyon said, still derives 34 per cent of its revenue from gate receipts and, although he did talk of developing the relationship from fans so that they become "customers", he at least did not refer to football supporters as "clients".

The world is changing apace, but Aigner showed a rare twist of humour when, with club representatives all around him asking for disconcerting developments, he concluded: "I can only say the game is simple. The rest is like a stone you turn over and over again and never come to a satisfying solution."

Graham quick to weave his magic

BY KEVIN McCARRA

In the midst of complaints over fixture congestion and unavailing proposals to cut the number of members, there is a healthy expansion scheme at work in the FA Carling Premiership. The list of clubs that are guaranteed to pucker opposition brows is growing.

Tottenham Hotspur and, to a lesser extent, Newcastle United, have used the FA Cup as a prospectus. Victories on Wednesday in fifth-round replays were eye-catching previews of the vigorous plans that they are beginning to implement.

Class divisions in English football have been flagrant, with the top of the Premiership table turning into a penthouse suite to which only Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea have access. At present Tottenham and Newcastle are far below that level, but they may soon get keys to the private lift.

The transformation of Tottenham, who will meet Barnsley at Oakwell in the FA Cup quarter-finals, has been astonishing in its rapidity yet predictable in nature. George Graham is one of the few managers who comes under warranty.

Their latest success took the form of a 2-0 victory over Graham's previous club, Leeds United.

Before the match, David O'Leary, his successor at Elland Road, had remarked that Graham inherited a sound squad at White Hart Lane. The difference has been in the manager's ability



Ginola, outstanding against Leeds, has responded to Graham's clever management

to extract consistent performances out of hitherto untapped potential.

Lethargy and complacency have been expelled and Graham is masterly at maintaining a creative tension in rela-

tionships with his players. In the win over Leeds, David Ginola hit the bar and the post before striking home a magnificent volley for the second goal. It seems probable that the Frenchman will be

voted footballer of the year. Graham, however, measured his praise with care, noting that Ginola had roamed too far from his left-wing role in the first half.

It had been presumed that

Graham would sell a player never associated with the iron discipline that he espouses. He has been much cleverer than that. Qualified acclaim is offered and Ginola is left to feel that he on approval and could still be rejected. The hint of uncertainty has given an edge to his displays.

Others such as Darren Anderson, the scorer of a fierce opening goal, appear sturdier, as if even muscles and joints have taken on board the message that fragility cannot be afforded at Graham's Tottenham. Accidents, nonetheless, do continue to happen. Les Ferdinand and David Wetherall, the Leeds defender, were both detained in hospital overnight after a clash of heads. Ferdinand will be seen by a specialist, having also suffered concussion in the match against Middlesbrough on Saturday.

In a hard-fought replay at Ewood Park, Kevin Gallifit's Newcastle side, with Dietmar Hamann dominant in midfield, conducted themselves at a far higher level than Blackburn Rovers and the 1-0 win was arrived at through a sharply taken goal from Louis Saha, the France Under-21 international, who is on loan from FC Metz.

Newcastle, who face Everton at home in the sixth round, had lost to Southampton on Saturday and the squad looks thin in some areas, but Gallifit is at least restoring the stylishness of play that had been missing at St James' Park since the departure of Kevin Keegan as manager in 1997.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

SUNDERLAND, the Nationwide League first division leaders, are planning to extend the capacity of their Stadium of Light to 52,500 if they achieve promotion to the FA Carling Premiership this season. The ground holds 41,500 spectators, but this could be increased in the next few seasons, transforming it into the second-largest ground in English league football. Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United, holds 56,000.

■ BIRMINGHAM CITY have made a player-plus-cash bid to sign David Holdsworth that values the Sheffield United captain at £1.5 million. They have offered £800,000 plus Martin Grainger, the Birmingham defender.

■ STOKE CITY, of the second division, have signed Gavin Ward, a goalkeeper, 28, from Bolton Wanderers.

■ BRIGHAMTON have banned four supporters from future games after crowd trouble in the third division match away to Southend United last Saturday, when three men were arrested and charged.

Storm hold Cardiff at bay

BY A CORRESPONDENT

MANCHESTER Storm went into their match at Nottingham last night needing one point to take the Skoda Superleague title. The leaders also knew they had the luxury of having three more games to make sure they could not be overtaken by Cardiff.

Kurt Kleinendorst, Manchester's American coach, has resolutely refused to be distracted by Cardiff's determined chase of a crown that has seemed destined for Manchester since before Christmas. "We will worry about what we do," he said. "Our destiny is in our own hands."

That destiny was even brighter after the flurry of activity over the previous 48 hours. Cardiff grimly kept their challenge alive at Ayr and Sheffield on successive nights. On both occasions they came close to defeat in regular time, which would have spelt the end of Welsh hopes. But each time they took the issue into sudden-death overtime. They lost 5-4 in Ayr and 4-3 in Sheffield, but each point they gained for drawing in regular time was enough to stay in contention for the title.

Manchester had come within four minutes of being crowned champions on Wednesday. Despite still missing Kelly Askew and Stefan Ketola, their injured marksmen, they produced a magnificent team performance to beat Ayr, the champions, 6-2 in Scotland.

Cardiff were 3-2 down and scuttling failure in Sheffield when Merv Priest struck to revive their faint hope.

Paul Heavey, the Cardiff coach, could not bring himself to concede to Manchester, but he came very close. "What we must do now is make sure we go into the play-offs with a psychological edge," he said. "We have set our sights high and when results don't match up to your expectations there is danger of something negative creeping in. There is still plenty to play for."

Heavey has led a worthy campaign against a club that has matched Ayr's meteoritic consistency of last season and deserve to be champions.

CRICKET: INDIA DECLARATION SETS SRI LANKA STERN CHALLENGE

Jayawardene leads solid reply

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

COLOMBO (second day of five): Sri Lanka, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 51 runs behind India.

MAHELA JAYAWARDENE with a brisk and unbeaten half-century, led a sturdy Sri Lanka reply to India's imposing first innings total of 518 for seven on the second day of their Asian Test Championship match.

Jayawardene was 59 not out at the close, having made his runs from 74 balls with the aid of nine fours and an on-driven six off the spin bowling of Harbhajan Singh. Jayawardene was given a life at 25 when Laxman, at short leg, split a bat-pad catch off Kumble.

Sri Lanka had lost their first wicket with only 18 runs on the board when the newcomer, Ashish Nehra, trapped Marvan Atapattu leg-before for six to open his Test account.

Sri Lanka's other opener, the left-handed Russell Arnold, made 34 in two hours and added 75 for the second wicket with Jayawardene before being run out by smart fielding

from Rahul Dravid who, from close to the wicket, returned the ball to Nayan Mongia, the wicketkeeper, before Arnold could regain his ground.

Earlier, the India captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, and Saurav Ganguly had both completed half-centuries during the afternoon session. Azharuddin fell to brilliant diving catch by Chandika Hathurusinghe at long-on for 87 to give Arnold, a part-time spinner, his first Test wicket.

Azharuddin batted for 218

minutes and hit 12 fours, his fifth-wicket stand with Ganguly being worth 112. Ganguly also fell to another splendid effort in the field. Having reached 56, he was caught at extra cover by the substitute, Ruwan Kalpage, diving to his left. Mongia went for 25 in the final over before tea, holding off Arnold.

India, resuming on 351 for three, had lost Sachin Tendulkar to the first ball of the day, caught behind after edging an outswinger from

SCOREBOARD FROM COLOMBO

INDIA: First Innings		SRI LANKA: First Innings	
V S Ramakrishnan	100	BOWLING: Virender Sehwag 31-5-108-1, Praveen Kumar 12-4-125-1, Upul Tharanga 28-3-94-1, Harbhajan Singh 18-3-51-1, Arnold 24-5-94-2, Jayawardene 11-3-35-1	
V V S Laxman c De Silva b Peters	11	M S Anupam c De Silva b Peters	5
R Dravid c Harbhajan Singh	107	R P Appala c De Silva b Peters	5
S R Tendulkar c Jayawardene b Virender Sehwag	53	R R Arunachalam not out	34
M A Azharuddin c Harbhajan Singh	57	D P M Jayawardene not out	59
b Arnold	57	U C Hathurusinghe not out	11
S C Ganguly c and b Upasenka	56	Extras 6-5, 6-6, w-3, nb-12	28
A Kumble not out	10	Total (7 wkt dec)	518
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-63, 3-280, 4-351, 5-463, 6-491, 7-518			

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-252, 3-288, 4-351, 5-463, 6-491, 7-518

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-252, 3-288, 4-351, 5-463, 6-491, 7-518

Gough leads by example

CHRISTCHURCH (New Zealand Under-19 won toss): England Under-19 beat New Zealand Under-19 by two wickets

MICHAEL GOUGH'S reputation was further enhanced yesterday with a masterful hundred in this, the first of three one-day internationals (John Stern writes).

The England Under-19 captain excelled in the four-day internationals against New Zealand, making 116 and 69 in Wellington. His stature at the top of the order in both forms of the game was exemplified at Hagley Oval, where he made 105 from 131 balls.

After he was stumped in the 39th over, Matt Bulbeck, who had taken two key New Zealand wickets, saw England home with four balls to spare.

Vaughan puts new spin on his worth

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN JOHANNESBURG

WANDERERS (first day of four; England A won toss): England A scored 263 for four wickets against Gauteng

ON THE face of it, Michael Vaughan's innings of 76 in a commanding opening partnership of 151 with Darren Maddy appeared to be the England A captain's chief contribution to a successful opening day to his side's four-day match against Gauteng. Of greater value, however, was his winning the toss for the eighth time out of nine on this tour.

Granted first use of a slow pitch that is already favouring the spinners, England made steady progress yesterday, despite a midday hiccup in which they lost three wickets for 13 runs in 20 balls.

School star search under way

TONY BANKS, the Minister for Sport, yesterday launched an initiative to induce more schoolchildren to take up cricket (Ivo Tenant writes). He also called on county clubs to show more encouragement in attracting potential stars from Asian backgrounds.

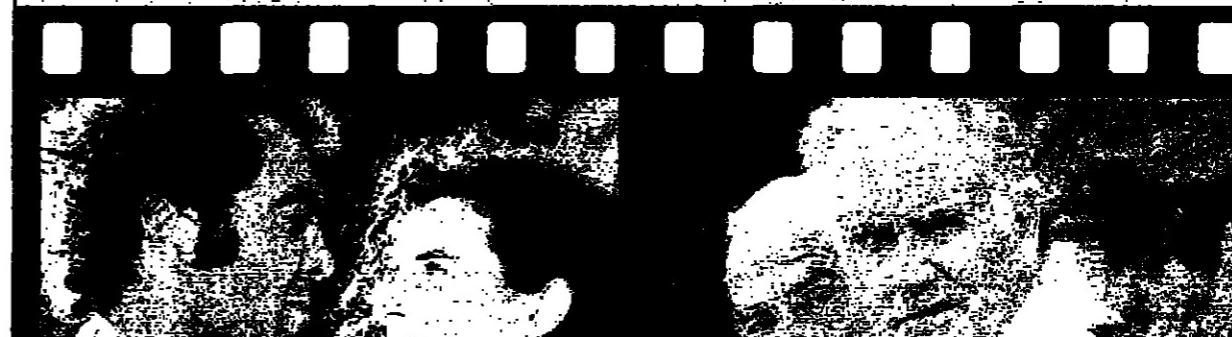
Under the scheme, 50 primary schools in five regions will be encouraged to master a range of skills before progressing to tournaments and camps.

Matthew Winslow became Bodi's third victim when he slapped a full toss to cover, but Andrew Flintoff and Virkram Solanki saw to it that no further wickets were lost with Flintoff in command from the close.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

WAKING NED Exclusive previews



Enjoy a complimentary pair of tickets at one of 77 Odeon, Warner or UCI cinemas.



See page 47 of metro tomorrow for full details and Token 1.

CHANGING TIMES

Sept 11-15

GOLF: O'MEARA AND ELS AMONG THOSE TO SUFFER SWIFT EXITS FROM MATCHPLAY EVENT

Big names are sent tumbling on a day of surprises

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA

MATCHPLAY is a form of golf that can deliver spectacularly unpredictable results — it is the very nature of an 18-hole match that a less skilful player can often beat his more fancied opponent. But no one believed that there could be as many upsets as occurred in the first round of the Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship here at La Costa.

This resort is a hedonist's playground that is alleged to have been built by money from the pension fund of the Teamsters Union. Jimmy Hoffa, the notorious head of the union, disappeared in mysterious circumstances about 20 years ago. The departure from this \$5 million event (about £3 million) of so many of the leading players so early in the competition is only marginally less surprising.

Of the 32 matches played in the first round, 17 were won by the golfer seeded lower than his opponent. Some of the biggest names in golf were rushing to the airport to fly home and ponder whether they lost because they had either played poorly, been beaten by the better golfer on the day or been out of luck.

Mark O'Meara was omnipresent last year, winning the Masters and Open before defeating Tiger Woods in a thrilling world match play championship final at Wentworth. He failed to reproduce that form here and was beaten by Michael Bradley, probably the least well-known of all the American players in the field. Instead of setting his sights on further glory, O'Meara found himself heading to Deer Valley, Utah, to rejoin his family on a skiing holiday.

Davis Love III, who won the US PGA Championship in 1997, was humbled by Steve Pate, but he was in good company as 12 of the top 20 players in the world made premature exits.

Ernie Els, of South Africa, had been in rampant form this year coming into this tournament, having enjoyed two victories and one second place in the four events in which he



Nick Price misses a putt at the 2nd during his second-round game with Jeff Maggert.



Bernhard Langer follows a drive during his second-round match with Vijay Singh.

SAILING

Soldini in pole position after leader loses mast

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE demolition derby that is the Around Alone Race Class 1 fleet claimed another victim yesterday with Marc Thiercelin, the class leader, reporting that his Open 60, *Somewhere*, had been dismasted in the south Atlantic. Two of six starters have now been dismasted, one has run aground and one has given up.

Although Thiercelin was not thought to be in immediate danger, his only remaining rival in the class, Giovanni Soldini, in *Fila* — who already has Isabelle Autissier on board after rescuing her when her boat capsized — might yet have to pick up Thiercelin as well.

This could be interesting. Over the past three days, Thiercelin and Autissier have been having a row via e-mail and the French press over the former's allegations that Autissier's presence on Soldini's boat was making the race unfair, spiced up with his disparaging views on her sailing ability. Bewildered race officials in the United States were playing down the chance of a second rescue, however.

Dan Miller, a spokesman for the race, said Thiercelin's mast had failed in about 30 knots of wind off the south Argentine coast, in "tugby seas". The broken end of the mast had pierced the deck of *Somewhere*, but the boat was not in danger of sinking.

Thiercelin later told officials that he plans to continue the race, if at all possible. Last night he was waiting for conditions to moderate before

heading towards Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands, where he will liaise with his shore team. They are in the region after Thiercelin's stop two days ago to repair the gooseneck fitting on his boat.

Thibault Derville, a team member, said Thiercelin had repaired the hole in the deck. Thiercelin was about 100 miles ahead of Soldini at the time of the dismasting, although he started the third leg from Auckland to Punta del Este with an overall advantage over him of 15 hours.

How he is going to sort out a new mast or repair the existing one in time to finish this leg and then make the start of the next one is far from clear. If Thiercelin is forced to retire, Soldini will be left in glorious

isolation as the only racer. But officials emphasised that in order to win the race, he must complete this leg and the final one from Punta to Charleston.

Meanwhile, in Paris, plans for a "Formula One Championship of the Sea" were announced yesterday, involving eight one-design yachts in a series of races in Europe for total prize-money of \$740,000.

The Adecco World Championship — proposed by Pierre Fehlmann, the veteran Swiss yachtsman and businessman backed by an Italian multi-millionaire — is to feature the Farr-designed 80-foot maxis built for the Grand Mistral Race, which never took place.

The first venue is the North Sea regatta in Holland in May; the last, Cowes Week in June.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 55

(a) A part of the helmet serving as a guard for the nose. The 11th-century French word, borrowed from late Latin, "The king Arvensis heldis heris by the nasal of the helme."

(b) Busy oneself about many affairs (that are not one's own). Meddlesome, officious. The Greek words mean "busy about many things".

NIGON

(c) A miser or niggard, in the ludicrously politically incorrect word. It would be as silly to ban Whiting as a name for a fish, because it sounds like Whitey.

PARASANG

(d) A Persian measure of length, usually reckoned as equal to between three and three-and-a-half miles, reckoned by Herodotus, as equal to 30 stadia. Taking the stadium as 600 feet, this would make the parasang less than three-and-a-half miles.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

Solution: Bxg6! Kxg6 2 Qg4+! Kxh6 (2... Kf7 3 Qg7 mate) 3 Re3 and mate follows on the h-file.

THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26 1999

TELEVISION CHOICE

Two women in a boat

Murder Most Horrid: Going Solo

BBC2, 9pm

Paul Smith, who wrote *The Brittas Empire*, here creates a monster even more aggravating than his health centre manager in *Tracy* (Dawn French), whose least irritating habit might be her compulsion to sing the *Barbie* song under her breath. Tracy is entering a two-handed round-the-world yacht race, partnered by Karen (Sarah Lancashire). She ignores or otherwise treats with contempt her easygoing husband (Jim Carter) and the two women set off on the race, Karen becoming more and more angry with her companion. Tracy more and more appalling. When the two are trapped in the hull of the capsized vessel, it gradually becomes clear that each has a different perception of the weeks preceding the trip. Will both survive and be rescued? Smith's script may be less than original in its plotting, but in a *Tales of the Unexpected* fashion, this is good, black fun.



More musical irreverence with Hughes, Lamarr and Jupitus (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Country House

BBC2, 7.30pm

The continuing story of some not very ordinary country folk. Woburn Abbey's Lord and Lady Tavistock are, however, completely fascinating. Tonight she is following the progress of her coffin, which is being built for her in the workshop. The dimensions seem a little vague, but she will be splendidly for storing her wife until she is ready to take up residence. Meanwhile, the fact that an earth-extraction excavation on the estate may spoil the view of some expensive new houses is getting locals rather excited. But the money it may bring in is absolutely vital to the survival of the whole place.

Frasier

Channel 4, 10pm

The emphasis is firmly on the pouncing of pretensions in tonight's episode, as Frasier and Niles attempt to impress the Gourmet Society by hosting a dinner. Circumstances force them to relocate to Maris's beach house (she's out of town, having her

RADIO CHOICE

Stephen Fry in Ugandan Discussions

Radio 4, 11.00am

This is one of several radio contributions to next month's Comic Relief extravaganza, and Fry's highly personal memoir of a trip to Uganda for the charity. It is a necessary reminder of the ravages that AIDS has visited upon Africa. There are more than 50,000 people in Uganda with AIDS and another 930,000 who are HIV positive; this out of a population of only 19 million. Clearly Fry's journey has had an important impact on his own attitudes and his visit to a family that Tony Robinson first met for Comic Relief seven years ago was a sobering experience. Then, both parents had AIDS; now, both are dead and the family are one of many in Uganda that are now child-headed — Vincent aged 16, is the oldest.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

8.30am Scott Mills 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Jo Whiley 2.00 Radio 4 4.00 Freddie Fox 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Paul Tong's Essential Selection 8.00 Judge Jules 11.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 Clive Warren

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 12.00pm John Inverdale 2.00 Ed Stoppard 5.00 Lyra 7.00 Michael Parkinson 8.00 The Big Breakfast 9.00 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Late Breakfast 10.30 Britain Today 10.45 Your Questions of Faith 11.00 Newsbeat 11.30 Focus on Earth 12.00pm World News 12.05 Outlook 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newsbeat 2.00 World News 2.05 Science in Action 2.30 Best on Record 3.00 World News 3.05 Football Extra 3.15 Performance 3.30 The Vintage Chart Show 4.00 World News 4.30 The New Euro 4.40 Midweek 5.00 Sports Round-Up 7.00 5.00 World News 8.00 Sport Report 8.45 Sports Round-Up 8.50 Sports Round-Up 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 David Jacobs 10.30 Sheridan Morley 11.45 The People's Parade 12.00pm World News 12.30 Focus on Earth 7.00 World News 7.05 Science in Action 7.30 Your Question of Faith 7.45 Off the Shelf: Captain Cook's Mandolin 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report 9.20 Britain Today 9.30 Best on Record 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Britain Today 10.45 Your Questions of Faith 11.45 Insight 12.00pm The World Today 12.30 Science in Action 12.55 My Century 1.00 The World Today 1.30 Meridian Books 2.00 The World Today 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 The World Today 3.30 Sports Round-Up 4.00 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.30 Weekend

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell, Telephone-in, plus the latest *Newsbeat*, 12.00pm The Midday News with Alan Robbie 1.00 *Rooftop* and 4.00 Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey 7.00 *News Extra*, Presented by Susan Bookbinder 7.30 Alan Green's *Sportsnight*, Brian Moore and studio guests discuss the week's sporting news, and second-hand commentary from *Vintage Road* on Watford 10.30am Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

RADIO 6 (BBC)

6.00am Big Boys' Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Radburn 2.00 CnC to Talk 5.00 *Sportline* 6.00 Jackie Mason Live from New York 10.00 Dave Barnett 1.00am Mike Dician

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Russ Williams 1.00am Nick Abbott 4.00 Harriet Scott 7.00 *Wheels of Steel* 11.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Steve Power

RADIO 3 (BBC)

6.00am On Air Petrov Trelawny with arts news and music. Includes Mussorgsky (Night on the Bare Mountain); Luigi Rossi (Il pescator penitente); Puccini's *Pagliacci* 2.00am Opéra 3.00 *Concerto* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music in the Air* 10.00 *Music in the Air* 11.00 *Music in the Air* 12.00 *Music in the Air* 1.00 *Music in the Air* 2.00 *Music in the Air* 3.00 *Music in the Air* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music in the Air* 10.00 *Music in the Air* 11.00 *Music in the Air* 12.00 *Music in the Air*

RADIO 4 (BBC)

6.00am Composers of the Week: Copland 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Palladian Ensemble 2.00 *Music in the Air* 3.00 *Music in the Air* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music in the Air* 10.00 *Music in the Air* 11.00 *Music in the Air* 12.00 *Music in the Air* 1.00 *Music in the Air* 2.00 *Music in the Air* 3.00 *Music in the Air* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music in the Air* 10.00 *Music in the Air* 11.00 *Music in the Air* 12.00 *Music in the Air* 1.00 *Music in the Air* 2.00 *Music in the Air* 3.00 *Music in the Air* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music in the Air* 10.00 *Music in the Air* 11.00 *Music in the Air* 12.00 *Music in the Air* 1.00 *Music in the Air* 2.00 *Music in the Air* 3.00 *Music in the Air* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music in the Air* 10.00 *Music in the Air* 11.00 *Music in the Air* 12.00 *Music in the Air* 1.00 *Music in the Air* 2.00 *Music in the Air* 3.00 *Music in the Air* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music in the Air* 10.00 *Music in the Air* 11.00 *Music in the Air* 12.00 *Music in the Air* 1.00 *Music in the Air* 2.00 *Music in the Air* 3.00 *Music in the Air* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music in the Air* 10.00 *Music in the Air* 11.00 *Music in the Air* 12.00 *Music in the Air* 1.00 *Music in the Air* 2.00 *Music in the Air* 3.00 *Music in the Air* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music in the Air* 10.00 *Music in the Air* 11.00 *Music in the Air* 12.00 *Music in the Air* 1.00 *Music in the Air* 2.00 *Music in the Air* 3.00 *Music in the Air* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music in the Air* 10.00 *Music in the Air* 11.00 *Music in the Air* 12.00 *Music in the Air* 1.00 *Music in the Air* 2.00 *Music in the Air* 3.00 *Music in the Air* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music in the Air* 10.00 *Music in the Air* 11.00 *Music in the Air* 12.00 *Music in the Air* 1.00 *Music in the Air* 2.00 *Music in the Air* 3.00 *Music in the Air* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music in the Air* 10.00 *Music in the Air* 11.00 *Music in the Air* 12.00 *Music in the Air* 1.00 *Music in the Air* 2.00 *Music in the Air* 3.00 *Music in the Air* 4.00 *Music in the Air* 5.00 *Music in the Air* 6.00 *Music in the Air* 7.00 *Music in the Air* 8.00 *Music in the Air* 9.00 *Music*

